


**EXTENSION
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Washington County Looks Ahead



**Containing Committee Reports Approved By
Planning Conference Held In Hillsboro February 25, 1957**

1957 Washington County

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING CONFERENCE

February 25, 1957

HILLSBORO, OREGON

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Palmer Torvend, Washington County Agent, and Elmer Guerber, Chairman of Washington County Agricultural Planning Council.

FOREWORD

The county comprises 731 square miles, or 467,840 acres. The elevation of the valley floor proper ranges from 140 to 275 feet. The farming area ranges in elevation up to almost 1500 feet and there are peaks in the county that range up towards 2600 feet on the west towards the coast. The valley is approximately 20 miles long and 15 miles wide. In its primitive state, the floor of the valley was almost treeless, expanses dotted with occasional groves and covered with lush grass and small vegetation.

The soils in the region are of two general types — residual in the hills and alluvial in recent deposits in the valley. A clay subsoil is covered with a silt loam which varies in depth from a few inches to several feet. Of the total area in the county, almost 90 per cent is privately owned. There are some 200,000 acres of commercial forest land, some of which has been restocked and other is coming back with natural stand. The total crop land area in the county is about 130,000 acres. The total acres in farms is over 250,000 acres.

Climate

Climatic conditions in the county are generally favorable. Maximum temperatures rarely reach 90° and occasionally may reach the extreme

of 106° and minimum temperatures during the winter months drop below freezing for only a few days. Average annual precipitation is 45 inches with heaviest rainfall in December and practically none in July.

Population

The population of Washington county is 81,000 people, with Hillsboro its largest incorporated city. The 1954 census shows 3,676 farms with the average sized farm being 64.3 acres. Irrigation rights for 26,000 acres have been filed with the state engineer, and over 18,000 acres are irrigated every year. The census shows that 2440 farms had telephones in 1954 and 3626 electricity.

Schools

There are 7 high schools in Washington county, some 45 grade schools of which 36 are consolidated or more than 2 room in size. In addition, there are several denominational high schools and grade schools serving the area. Pacific University is located in Forest Grove. The facilities of Portland State, Portland University, Lewis & Clark, Oregon Medical and dental colleges, and numerous private specialist schools are available in Portland.

Churches

Most denominations are represented in Washington county and more new mission churches are being established as population increases. Families will have little difficulty in finding a church of their choice in or near by communities in the county.

Medical Services

There is one hospital in Hillsboro and many doctors have access to several Portland hospitals. Medical clinics are located in each of the towns and there is a county health doctor and nurses located in Hillsboro.

Recreation Facilities include swimming pools in Forest Grove, Hillsboro, and Beaverton; city parks and state parks; and hunting and fishing in the streams and mountains. Four well-established golf courses serve the area.

Roads and Highways

Most of the main roads are paved and several of the highways are being expanded into four-lane. The county is traversed by Sunset Highway and Wilson Highway, both of which go to the coast and are direct routes to Portland. The eastern part of the county is also serviced by the Baldock freeway for points in Salem and the south. There are 1300 miles of improved road in Washington county, 500 of county oiled roads, 500 gravel, and approximately 270 state highway. In addition, two rail lines run through the county and air facilities are available both at the Hillsboro airport and through the municipal airport in Portland. Portland is a world port and offers water transportation to all parts of the world; and a good portion of the county is serviced by regular bus transportation to Portland.

Income

Agriculture is the basic wealth producing enterprise in the county with about 47 per cent from livestock and about 53 per cent from field crops and horticulture. The total agricultural income of the county is over \$18,000,000. This sum is increased several times when allied activities are considered, because this basic industry provides income for many other families in the county who are employed in harvesting, processing, transporting, and related interests. About sixty agricultural commodities are produced in the county on a commercial scale. Portland provides the primary market, although many of the commodities produced in quantities are eventually sold on the eastern seaboard.

Federal and State Agencies

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Land Bank, Soil Conservation District, and Forest Service all have facilities and services available in the county. The county extension office services people with a staff who work with youth and adult men and women in agricultural and urban areas. This staff offers the services and information of Oregon State College Oregon Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating, to all residents of the county.

Youth Committee Report

Youth Committee Members

Members: Don Hagg, Chairman, A. H. Abts, Mrs. Albert Highbe, Mrs. Lawrence Cropp, Mrs. Albert Rupprecht, Elmer Grossen, Alden Oleson, Curtis Tigard, D. V. Olds, Clifford Cornutt, Mrs. Lewis Stewart, Mrs. Leland Twigg, Mrs. Mary Kurtz, Mrs. Paul Patterson, Mrs. Chester Robinson, Mrs. James Meeker, Mrs. John Wolfe, Mrs. Ray Hamman, Mrs. Joy Carver, Clyde Walker, Mrs. F. J. Krieske, Mrs. M. Schmokel, George Penrose, Lester Hanna, Mrs. Carl Vreeland, Henry Hendrickson, Al Lindow, Larry Johnson, W. Gilfillan, Don Jossy, Clayton Nyberg, James Thomas, Dick Kenyon, Rose Meier, Elizabeth Job, Mrs. H. B. Brookhardt.

Secretaries, Joe Cox and Nina Greenslade.

Youth Committee

In Washington county there are at present 24,000 boys and girls of age 4 to 19. Of this group 14,500 are between the age of 9 and 19 years. A survey of membership indicates that 2,700 are in Boy Scouts, including Cub Scouts 1,300 in Camp Fire Girls, 180 are enrolled in vocational agriculture training in our high schools, 1,700 are enrolled in 4-H club work, and 900 in Girl Scouts work. This indicates that only 43 per cent of the eligible boys and girls are being reached by these organized youth activities. It is realized that the various churches in the county reach some others through their denominational youth activities.

With the growth in urban population, we are facing problems similar to those in cities, but still do not have facilities comparable to those now existing in cities.

Realizing the existence of this situation, the youth committee, composed of representatives of all parts of the county, met to study the problems and have brought forth recommendations to help solve these problems.

In order to more thoroughly concentrate on specific areas of youth needs, the committee divided into

sub-committees of health and safety, juvenile delinquency, youth labor, education and recreation, leadership and organizations.

Health And Safety

Problems. 1. Working mothers, 2. Inadequate first-aid training, 3. Lack of appeal of school lunches to children, both in variety and attractiveness, 4. School safety on black top playgrounds.

Recommendations: 1. Encourage working mothers to take part-time employment in place of full-time work. 2. Establish more day nursery schools with trained personnel. 3. Train teachers, school bus drivers, and youth leaders in first aid. 4. Make school lunches more attractive to children.

Juvenile Delinquency

Problems: 1. Laws are not adequate to cope with the problems. 2. Parents need to be made aware of problems of youth. 3. Too much publicity given to undesirable incidents involving young people. 4. Putting juveniles in jails with older law violators. 5. Lack of enforcement of curfew laws. 6. Teenagers with cars and 7. Need of more juvenile officers.

Recommendations: 1. Employ at least four trained juvenile officers to work with schools throughout county, 2. Enact laws that will give police and courts the sufficient authority to carry out their duties, 3. Encourage newspapers, radio and television to give emphasis to worthwhile accomplishments of youth. 4. Establish juvenile detention homes in the county. 5. Enforce curfew laws, 6. Establish parent counseling and child guidance clinic in county. 7. Plan programs of supervised activity for "hot rod" fans.

Youth Labor

Problems: 1. Washington county farmers of necessity depend on children and mothers to harvest crops, 2. Many youths will need to register under new social security regulations. Those working 20 days or earning \$150 are required to be covered under social

security. 3. It is difficult for agriculture to compete with industry on wage scales. 4. Transient labor is undependable. 5. Attitude of farm labor can be improved. 6. Teenagers who won't work in berry and bean harvest have too much time on their hands.

Recommendations: 1. Continue platoon system for organizing youth for crop harvesting jobs. 2. Encourage young people to register for social security before they go to work. 3. Through tours, slides, moving pictures, etc., educate youth as to importance of crop harvesting work. 4. Teach young people to have pride in their work. Learn to give a days work for a days pay. This can be done in the home and school. 5. Establish teenage labor pool through high schools to provide employers with a source of youth labor.

Education And Recreation

Problems: 1. Present educational facilities are not being used to the greatest possible extent. 2. Lack of coordination of facilities and personnel for education and recreation in the county. 3. Lack of understanding on part of many parents as to purpose of organized recreation programs.

Recommendations: 1. Coordinate effort of all youth committees in Washington County to work together on problems. 2. Encourage greater use of existing school and recreation facilities in all areas of county. 3. Encourage more parent participation in recreation activities. 4. Plan so that any new facilities such as gymnasiums, swimming pools, etc. may be coordinated with existing facilities and supplement them. 5. Complete and publish county survey by communities of all recreational facilities. Have trained personnel help set up recreation program in communities needing help. 6. Encourage organized recreation programs throughout the county. 7. Develop program of vocational counseling to help people plan both work time and leisure time.

Leadership

Realizing that one of the keys to the success of any youth program is properly trained leadership, the committee has explored ways of developing and improving adult leadership for youth activities.

Problems: 1. How to secure more parent interest in youth program and convince parents of their obligation to their children. 2. How to keep present leaders and make them more effective leaders. 3. How to develop new leaders. 4. How to secure more community support for those leading youth activities.

Recommendations: 1. Explain the program to parents when young person joins a group. 2. Encourage parents to attend youth meetings often enough to be familiar with program. 3. Encourage parent participation in program by helping leaders when needed. 4. Have parent training meetings. 5. Keep parents informed on progress child is making. 6. More complete training for leaders through continuous series of leader training meetings. 7. More local recognition for leaders by city and county organizations. 8. Development of junior leaders organizations. 9. Develop new techniques to give more people an opportunity to become leaders. 10. Help both city and rural organizations to be better informed on youth programs and their needs. 11. Encourage individuals within organization who are supporting youth programs to concentrate on fewer activities at a time.

Organizations

This committee considered what organizations in Washington County are doing, or could be doing, to assist in youth work. Among the organizations considered were, service clubs, farm organizations, including the Grange, Farm Bureau, Farmers' Union, social agencies, churches and schools.

Because of the number of organizations active in some form of youth work, this committee suggests the possibility of forming a county youth council. This council should include representatives of organizations such as Granges farm bureau, Farmers' Union, Scouts, 4-H, P.T.A., health service,

juvenile officer, sheriff, state police, churches, Camp Fire, and any others that may be interested in making a better situation for the youth in our county.

This council could, over a period of years, be formed by the efforts of the extension service and the people interested in this problem. This group believes that at the present time, service clubs, industrial representatives, and a number of others are lending their support to high school programs, and that probably this group is receiving a large proportion of their attention. The committee would like to point that research and statistics show that the pattern of youth activities and interests is pretty well established before youngsters enter high school. Evidence indicates definitely that to be effective, youth work should start between the 4th and 6th grade. Groups started at this age develop interests and carry them over into the high school age whereas a very small percentage of the older group ever become interested in our present youth activities or organizations once they have started high school.

Review Suggested

The committee suggests that each organization review its program to determine what they have to offer youth of various age groups.

The committee believes that the younger groups, beginning with the eight year olds, should be given more information on what is available to them in high school and later life so as to stimulate them to the possibilities ahead for them.

The committee believes that the idea of trade schools has merit and should be given a thorough study. Also that the compulsory requirement for school attendance should be studied to determine whether the accomplishments of keeping all youth in school until 18 is justified.

The committee would like to suggest to service clubs, churches, and others interested in youth organization, that they consider concentrating some more efforts on the younger groups below high

school age, with the thought that this younger group would continue its interests on through high school age, once they were started.

The committee suggests that there is a real need for improvement in aids to people who are to become leaders. That a leadership training program should start before the people actually become leaders. There is need for improvement in the equipment and materials available for leaders. It was suggested that service organizations be asked to support the youth activities by lending additional help, such as financial and moral support.

In Washington County it appears that up to 75 per cent of the population will be urban in a very short time. Therefore, this committee suggests that officials of labor unions be contacted to determine their interests in leadership training programs to prepare their people to take over leadership of 4-H clubs, boy scouts, girl scouts, etc., in their various communities.

The big job yet is finding and training leaders to work with youth. Some studies should be made on how to reach a higher percentage of the youth in the county. This could be one of the jobs of the youth council.

Without an increase in population, in 10 years there will be 21,000 boys and girls of the ages 9 to 19, an increase of over 7,000. The committee urges that organizations be prepared to meet this increase which may be even double this number because of the influx of new residents into the county. This educational work should be done with parents relative to their responsibilities to their youth once they become members of one of these various organizations.

The group suggested that signs could be placed at the entrance of our towns stating what youth organizations and activities were available in that community. There are communities where additional recreation facilities are needed. This should be studied by the council to determine which areas are adequately served and which are not.

Home Economics Committee Report

Home Economics Committee

Mrs. Victor Wendte, chairman, Mrs. George Lincoln, Mrs. Walter Doede, Mrs. Fritz Meier, Mrs. Art Pearson, Mrs. H. Josephson, Mrs. H. Triet, Mrs. W. Glover, Mrs. Fred Borsch, Mrs. D. Saucy, Mrs. P. Patton.

Secretary, Betty Swedberg.

Leadership

As population in Washington county increases, the demand for leadership of parents in youth activities creates many leadership problems.

Recommendations:

(1). A county survey should be made to determine present participation in all youth organizations. Results of survey should be published and made available to all who are interested.

(2). More leader training meetings should be conducted for training in organization and subject matter areas.

(3). More parents should be given responsibilities in club programs, thereby assisting leaders.

Library

Library facilities are inadequate for the increased population of Washington county.

Recommendations:

(1). Training meetings should be held for the purpose of teaching citizens library procedures and facilities.

(2). An adequate library system should be organized to enable county-wide participation.

(3). A bookmobile should be made available to all residents of Washington county.

Community Citizenship

Rapid population growth in Washington county has developed community organizational problems, especially in the suburban areas. City families have moved into smaller communities without knowledge of citizenship roles required of their members.

Recommendations:

(1). Organize more community clubs to promote citizenship among community members.

(2). Prepare and publish a brochure

containing information pertaining to facilities, services, and organizations available to a community member.

Mothers Working

Working mothers leave many children without supervision. The mothers feel they must contribute to the family income because of the reduction of the annual net income or the increased desires of the family.

Recommendations:

(1). Parents should evaluate the actual contribution of additional income versus the possible detrimental effect this practice will have on their total family living.

(2). Working mothers should realize the importance of adult supervision for children. Parents need help in understanding and assuming more responsibility in family life.

Homemaker in Extension Work

A minority of homemakers now enrolled in active extension work are young mothers. Exactly 715 homemakers are now enrolled in 24 extension units within the county; yet the 1950 census records 19,000 women in Washington county. The committee feels more of these homemakers should participate in the extension program.

Recommendations:

(1). Perhaps evening meetings should be held to encourage participation of young mothers.

(2). An organized baby care program should be established for homemakers with small children.

(3). More effort should be made to determine the kind of help needed by young homemakers. The program may or may not be patterned after the present program.

(4). Continue to plan and organize a county home economics program which will meet more needs and interests of various economic and educational levels in the county.

(5). Hold educational meetings in public meeting places to encourage more participation.

Suburban Living Committee Report

Suburban Living Committee

G.F. Abts, Chairman, Mr. Phillip Pratt, Mr. H. D. Scott, Mrs. Donald Robinson, Mr. William Pond, John F. Neu, secretary, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Doede, Mr. G. D. Richardson, Mrs. R. G. Hamreus, Mr. A.W. Krebs.

Secretary, John Neu.

In the past seven years, Washington county's population has risen from 61,269 to the present figure of 81,000. With this general increase, a shifting in location of population has taken place. Rural-farm people constitute 25 per cent of the total population, and urban and rural-non-farm make up the remaining 75 per cent.

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

The demand for more housing, the scarcity of land within city limits, and the desire of people to live in the country, led to the subdivision of farm land for housing development, in the eastern part of the county adjacent to the city of Portland.

There are approximately 45,000 people living in the eastern third of the county, including such areas as Cedar Hills, Beaverton, and Tigard. About 20 per cent of these people have either an extra large lot or a small acreage from which they hope to take a part of their living. The remaining 80 per cent have landscaping and homemaking problems that were not foreseen when the urge came to move to the country.

Census figures indicated that the number of part-time and residential farms is now decreasing. At the same time, suburban population is on the increase. This seems to indicate that either the part-time farms have proved unprofitable, or that the land was worth more as building sites.

Zoning Absent

This suburban development has occurred without the benefit of a sound zoning and planning program, lack of which has created many undesirable situations. The lack of continuity of streets and traffic flow, inadequate drainage and sewage disposal facilities, unsafe water supply, sub-standard housing, and inadequate roads are some of the major problems facing the suburban dweller.

The changing agricultural picture has revealed that the part-time farm has become a less profitable venture. Folks who have moved to a small country place have discovered that they have neither the time nor "timely hours" off the job to carry out a profitable part-time farm. They have also discovered that transportation to and from work, school, and church has become a substantial expense item. The problems of family food production, and insect and weed control becomes a great concern to those unfamiliar with cultural practices.

Whether it is profitable or not, local and national trends support the conclusion that the movement to the suburbs will continue. The office worker, the laborer, and the business and professional man is willing to pay the extra price for the advantage of raising a family in the country, and having something to divert his interest and provide relaxation from his regular job.

Recommendations Offered

The committee, being a new one, lacks historical data necessary for a long-range projection program. However, the following recommendations, based on information at hand, are steps toward development of a suburban extension program.

The people of the suburban area are unfamiliar with the educational services available through the ex-

tension service. The committee recommends that:

1. Publicity be given in the form of brochures, through newspapers, radio, television, media and by personal contact.

2. Office hours be set up in Beaverton, the heart of the suburban area. These hours should coincide with the free time of the suburbanite.

3. Information be accumulated and given publicity on advantages and disadvantages, and things to look for when purchasing suburban property such as: What to expect in the way of costs, taxes, transportation, fire and police protection, drainage, school facilities, value as a place of retirement, and medical facilities.

4. A concerted effort be made to assist those people already located in suburban situations to solve the following problems:

a. Landscaping-including lawn construction and maintenance; steep slopes and other irregular edgings; economical all-weather driveways; back-yard fences; weed control, especially along county road ditches adjacent to housing developments; and other problems of an agricultural nature.

b. Home gardens and orchards

c. Drainage-including surface water; privately owned culverts over creeks and roads; city and county owned swampy property detrimental to health and safety; and sewage disposal.

5. A concerted effort be made to develop a program to meet the needs and problems revolving around home management and family living.

6. A program comparable to the extension units be developed to meet the needs of the suburban housewife, or that short courses be conducted when the housewife is able to attend.

7. A big percentage of the homemakers in the suburban area are under the age of 21. A concerted effort should be made to determine the needs and interests of these younger couples. These needs would be in the fields of home management, consumer buying,

and budget management. The committee recommends that high school seniors be contacted and informed of problems they face in setting up a home. High school should be encouraged to institute a course in home financial and budget management.

Working Wives Problem

8. The problems of working wives and mothers be considered. Approximately 25 per cent of the suburban wives and mothers are working either part or full-time. The committee recommends that:

a. Parents evaluate the actual contribution the wife can make to family life through working.

b. They realize the importance of the need of adult supervision for children.

c. If working is essential, well-organized play schools with nominal fee be encouraged and that businesses be encouraged to arrange their working schedules so that mothers work only during school hours.

9. The problems of the older age group be considered. The older population of Washington county has been on the increase. The 1950 census reveals that there were 8,234 persons between the ages of 60 and 85. The committee recommends that the needs of these people be determined, with emphasis on social and recreational needs.

10. 4-H club work should be encouraged for the suburban youngsters, by adapting the 4-H program to projects that are feasible to a suburban situation, and by encouraging parents to take on the role of 4-H club leadership.

11. The establishment of a county mobile library should be encouraged.

12. Future suburban development needs to be guided by a sound zoning and planning program.

13. The program covering the problems mentioned was instituted at the request of the county planning council, and is presently scheduled to expire July 1, 1958. It is the recommendation of this committee that the program be continued and made a part of the present county extension service.

Family Life Committee Report

Family Life Committee

Members: Mrs. Daniel Basick, Chairman, Arnold Gnos, Reverend Gene Albertson, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Meier, Mrs. Victor Wendte, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Leming, Tony Abts, Mrs. Joe Taylor, Walt Neuberg, Mrs. Joe Baker, Mrs. Fay Mead, Joe Cox, Fred Boyer, Mrs. R. A. Withycombe, Mrs. Joe Jaross, Mrs. Don Jossy, Mrs. Elmer Grossen, Mrs. Lawrence Cropp, Mrs. Dan Habeisen.

Secretaries, Betty Swedberg and Palmer Torvend.

Farm Economic Trends Noted

There are several trends in farm economics which are affecting family life. A survey of farm expenditures in 1955 indicate that expenditures of farm operator families for family living purposes averaged \$3,309. The survey covered approximately 4,500 farms in all sections of the United States and included economic classes of farms with value of sales of \$250 and over.

The largest single group of expenditures was for housing, which averaged \$868, including house furnishings and household operations. The second largest figure was for food, which averaged \$833. The food outlays represented purchased food only, excluding the value of food produced and consumed on the farm where grown.

Clothing expenditures amounted to \$427, and family transportation averaged \$378. Farm family expenditures for medical care averaged \$240 in 1955 while contributions and cash gifts averaged \$110. Other goods and services amounted to \$435. Of this \$435, recreation absorbed \$124; personal insurance, \$86; personal care, \$70; tobacco and alcoholic drinks, \$68; reading and education, \$44; and miscellaneous items, \$61.

Farm Income

The U.S. department of agriculture has prepared summaries of the amount of cash receipts and of

farm operating expenses in Oregon from the year 1949 through 1955. The trend in gross farm income was upward from a level in 1949 of 400.5 million dollars to a high of 490.2 million dollars in 1951, but showed a gradual decline from 1951 to 1954. It then turned upward to a level of 445.1 million in 1955. The total net farm income follows somewhat the same trend.

In 1949, net income of \$144.7 million increased to \$203.5 million in 1951 and decreased to \$144.4 million in 1955.

Farm Indebtedness

The amount of farm real estate loans held by principal lenders in Oregon on January 1, 1956 was \$196,426,000, an increase of 9 per cent over the previous year, according to the U.S. department of agriculture. Non-real estate loans (not secured by farm real estate) amounted to \$63,830,000 an increase of 21 per cent.

These are loans and advances made largely for production purposes. This indicates a rise of indebtedness to 12 per cent in the year 1955 over the previous year. Interest on farm mortgage debt shows a steady climb, also from \$5.1 million in 1949 to \$9.1 million in 1955.

According to the January 24, 1957 issue of the **Oregonian**, dollar volume of mortgage lending in Washington county issued by the Title and Trust company totalled 2,500 and aggregated \$23,997,533. This is not entirely farm debt, of course.

The Federal Land Bank of Spokane indicates that their average loans a few years ago amounted to between \$4,000 and \$6,000. In 1956, the average was between \$8,000 and \$9,000. (This was for Washington and Columbia Counties).

Taxation

According to compilations by the tax foundation, total tax receipts of the federal, state, and local governments in the fiscal year 1956 reach-

ed the gigantic and record-breaking total of approximately \$1000,000,-000,000 including nearly \$72,200,-000,000 of federal taxes.

The aggregate of all taxes has more than doubled over a period of a decade and multiplied almost 10 times in two decades. The total of federal taxes alone is almost twice what it was for fiscal year 1946.

Taxes on farm property in Oregon show a steady climb from \$17.2 million in 1949 to a high of \$22.8 million in 1955. There is urgent need to consider not only the effect of this complex of taxation upon the nation's free enterprise, but also the fairness and equity with which the weight of the tax burden is distributed among our population. (Representative Frederic R. Coudert, Jr., Oregon Journal, February 17, 1957).

*Between 1950 and 1955 Washington county's population gained 21 per cent, from 61,269 to 74,120. In a single year, it increased more than 7,000 additional to 81,450 a 32.9 per cent gain over 1950. The first figure is the one taken from the 1950 census, while the others are based on the estimates to the state board of health. Such increase in population has brought material increase in property tax throughout the county since many more services are required.

Washington county is being settled as the result of the rapid urban development of the city of Portland from its city limits to the town of Beaverton. Much of this area has a school population constantly crowding its school facilities. This area has become one of the "distressed school" areas of Oregon. To meet the needs of school and other services, the property tax in Washington county is increasing.

In the 1956-57 tax roll, the millage levies run from a low of 92 mills to a high of 162.6 mills. The greater proportion of the tax districts have levies of over 100 mills with the largest per cent levied for school purposes.

Conversion of Farm Land

The growth of the Portland area into Washington county, and also the urban spread of other cities, is diverting farm or agricultural land. A report of the U.S. soil conservation service shows that 174,590 acres of land in Washington county are suited to cultivation. Of this tillable soil, 20,000 acres were converted from agricultural use to urban use before 1942, and since 1942, 18,800 acres have been so converted.

*1. "Character and Resources," Forest Grove City Planning Commission, October 1956.

Recommendations

1. Since agricultural income is affected by such factors as overproduction, tariff regulations, currency exchanges, etc., the extension service should help farm families gain an understanding of such influences.

2. Since the trend of women going into industry has been established, more attention needs to be given to the economics of the family with married women working outside the home, and to the family relationships involved by her absence.

3. Since the property tax on farms in Washington county is almost confiscatory, attention should be given to greater equalization of the tax load. Income tax exemptions should permit a decent standard of living.

4. Since local and national trends support the conclusion that a movement of urban population to the suburbs will continue, careful attention should be given to the progress of established of "green belts" in California.

Family Relationships

The family is struggling to maintain unity. It is necessary to evaluate the following: (1) Family income for family living needs; (2) role of family members in relationship to each other, and (3) community demands on family members.

Recommendations

1. Encourage family nights in communities.

2. Provide pre-marriage counseling services. A survey should be made of leadership available through high school and other sources in Washington county sponsored by community leaders. A brochure should be prepared with such resources for couples planning marriage and made available through schools, churches, etc. (or in conjunction with Portland).

3. Family conferences through schools or churches could consider problems of family relationships.

Health and Nutrition

Recent surveys in parts of the county indicate that a substantial portion (over 60%) of the school children are in need of dental care. The care of these children's dental needs is being retarded by a lack of low cost dental work and the inability of low income families to provide funds for dental work.

Fluoridation of water supplies is recognized as one means of decreasing dental problems. Although considerable work has been done on fluoridation, more educational work is needed before such a program can become a reality.

Although an extensive program of polio (Salk) inoculation has been carried out, only about 65% of those between ages 6 months and 19 years have been inoculated.

Proper nutrition is one of the keys to better health. Research and the application of results obtained are needed to keep up with nutritional problems.

Recommendations:

To constantly improve the level of general health of the people of the county, the committee recommends:

1. That a committee be organized to investigate the dental health problem in this county, with emphasis on low cost dental care.

2. That education be continued on fluoridation of water supplies toward the end that all water supplies eventually be fluorine treated.

3. That all persons between the ages of 6 months and 19 years and

pregnant women be given Salk vaccine.

4. That scientific research be continued in nutrition.

5. That hot lunches be provided in all schools in the county.

6. That farm and suburban families raise family gardens to provide more balanced diets.

Financing Services

The amount of income and property tax has not been sufficient to meet problems of financing school and other facilities. School facilities in Washington county take 70 to 80 per cent of the tax dollar; 19 per cent of the tax dollar is used for county government.

Recommendations

1. A reappraisal of taxes should be made to spread tax more equitably and assess property not now appearing on the tax roll.

2. There should be a study of how to make better use of present facilities.

3. There is a need to disseminate all available factual information on public services so individuals and families may evaluate the needs and ability to support the services.

Water Conservation

During the summer, Washington county is short of water for domestic purposes. The average family of ours uses 16 gallons of water a day for household purposes.

In certain areas wells have become uncertain sources of domestic water. Lack of irrigation water is becoming a serious problem to agriculture. Industrial plants use from a few thousand to as high as two or three million gallons of water a day. Present supplies of water for industrial purposes are inadequate to rest the needs of any new industrial development.

Winter runoff in Washington County at the present time is from 4 to 8 times the foreseeable need in Washington County during the next 20 to 40 years.

1. Present water rights must be adjudicated by the state engineer

to determine priority of each water right.

2. Means of checking excessive runoff should be investigated.

Sanitation

To be approved, the county sanitarian requires that a septic tank drainage is a public health menace. The county has two county and two private garbage dumps.

Recommendations

1. Increasing population will greatly magnify these problems; therefore, groups having to do with county, community, and city planning in Washington county should make a thorough study of these situations and develop an over-all plan for the handling of these sanitation problems.

2. Develop an education program for public support in implementing a plan for solving sanitation problems.

Leadership

Due to increasing complexities of our social and economic family living, leadership demands are increasing.

Recommendations

1. Community leadership workshops should be held to train leaders for youth activities and other leaders for adult activities.

2. "Town Hall" forums are suggested.

3. Home economics unit programs could experiment in discussion of vital home, family, and community problems.

Livestock Committee Report

Livestock Committee Members

The committee members cooperating on this report were Earl Simantel, chairman, Bob Murphy, Arnold Goff, Curtis Ritchey, Jim Underwood, R. Hornecker, DeLane Fry, John Haase, Ferd Putnam, Joe Jackson, Don Adams, and L. C. Baron.

Secretary, Lloyd C. Baron.

To promote a sound livestock economy it is of prime importance to have an abundance of cheap feed grain, adequate low cost pasture lands and a ready market. It is worthy of note that the population in Washington county has increased from 39,200 in 1940 to 81,000 in 1956 and it appears that this trend may be expected to continue at an accelerated pace for several years.

This of course is making heavy inroads on the potential pasture and grainland and has increased the farm tax load to the point where one must be highly efficient if he is to do better than meet the increased cost of production. Many producers are finding it necessary to consider the more specialized agricultural enterprises that hold promise of a higher per acre return with their livestock enterprises being only secondary.

Beef: Nationally, the per capita consumption of beef is higher than at any time in the 20th century. It was the feeling of the committee, however, that this was probably due to the current low cost of beef and that consumption would rise and fall with the price of beef and other competing meats.

Area Held Marginal

Washington county must be considered marginal for beef production due to high land costs, high taxes and a shortage of the proper kind of feed. Beef should be considered as a secondary enterprise or one to utilize the waste of surplus from seed crops, cannery crops, etc. Some of the marginal hill land, if seeded to improved grasses would sustain a limited beef enterprise.

In general irrigated pasture will carry two to three head of cattle per acre. Non-irrigated seeded pastures require about three or four acres per animal and non-improved pastures will have a very low carrying capacity. It should also be mentioned that a beef animal will eat about 2500 pounds of hay during the winter.

There are some new chemicals and feed supplements such as aureomycin and stilbestrol, that show promise of getting more efficient gains from beef animals but it is not felt that these will improve the position of Washington county feeders enough to really make them competitive with other areas. Experience has proven that it is not a good commercial venture for the feeder to maintain his own brood cow herd.

Better profits can be had with the purchase of feeders or thin cows with calf each spring, pasturing them through the summer and selling in the fall. There is limited opportunity for a modified feeder operation utilizing local barley to finish out cattle that have been on pasture or silage. As competition increases and margins are made thinner, more and more stress is placed on an animal's inherent ability to make fast, economical gains. In buying cattle either for feeding or breeding, it is well to get animals with performance or production records back of them.

The committee recommends that the practice of crossing dairy cows with beef bulls be discontinued. The net result of such practice is usually a high-cost animal that will not grade up very high which disappoints the producer.

Sheep Best Secondary

Sheep: Sheep have a limited potential as a secondary enterprise but the operator must have a liking for them before he can expect to be successful. Seed and grain farms could profitably keep sheep to clean up after harvest, clean out fence

rows, keep down weeds and sometimes light pasturing on fall seeded grains will increase the grain yields.

Proper management is all important to success. Start out with foundation stock that have a history for producing a high percentage of twins that show fast, economical gains. Breeds that have a fairly heavy wool clip as well as producing good market lambs have proven best. It is interesting to note that the winner of the Oregon sheep production contest this year, in the less than 100 ewe class, grossed \$31 per ewe (Lincoln-Rambouillet-Shropshire cross) with a 9 pound wool clip selling at 48 cents per pound and lamb prices ranging from 19 cents in June to 16 cents per pound in October. Creep feeding of lambs has proven profitable.

The main problems in raising sheep in Washington county seem to be sheep-killing dogs, coyotes, foot rot, worms, pregnancy disease and lack of proper fencing. Controls are improving and it would appear that a limited increase in the small farm flocks would be desirable and profitable especially if some improved summer pasture such as rape and sub-clover can be provided to fatten out the lambs.

Swine: Oregon produces only 35 per cent of the pork consumed within the borders of the state with the balance coming from the Middle West where the grain-hog ratio is usually more favorable. At present the ratio is favorable to hog production in Oregon.

Ratio 4½ To One

Roughly speaking it requires 450 pounds of grain or the equivalent to produce 100 pounds of pork. Therefore, whenever more than 450 pounds can be purchased with the returns from 100 pounds of pork it is considered a good bet to market your grain in the form of pork. Efficiency in production and producing what the consumer wants is the key to success.

In 1956 it was costing good feeders 12 cents cash cost per pound

based on \$45 per ton barley to produce one pound of pork. At the same time the selling price was 19 cents per pound on the Portland market. As with other livestock it pays to get quality foundation animals. The trend is toward lean, meaty animals. There are so many substitutes for lard, the packer can no longer profit on lard type hogs. There is a need for more boar testing work to assure the purchaser of getting feeders that will make fast economical gains.

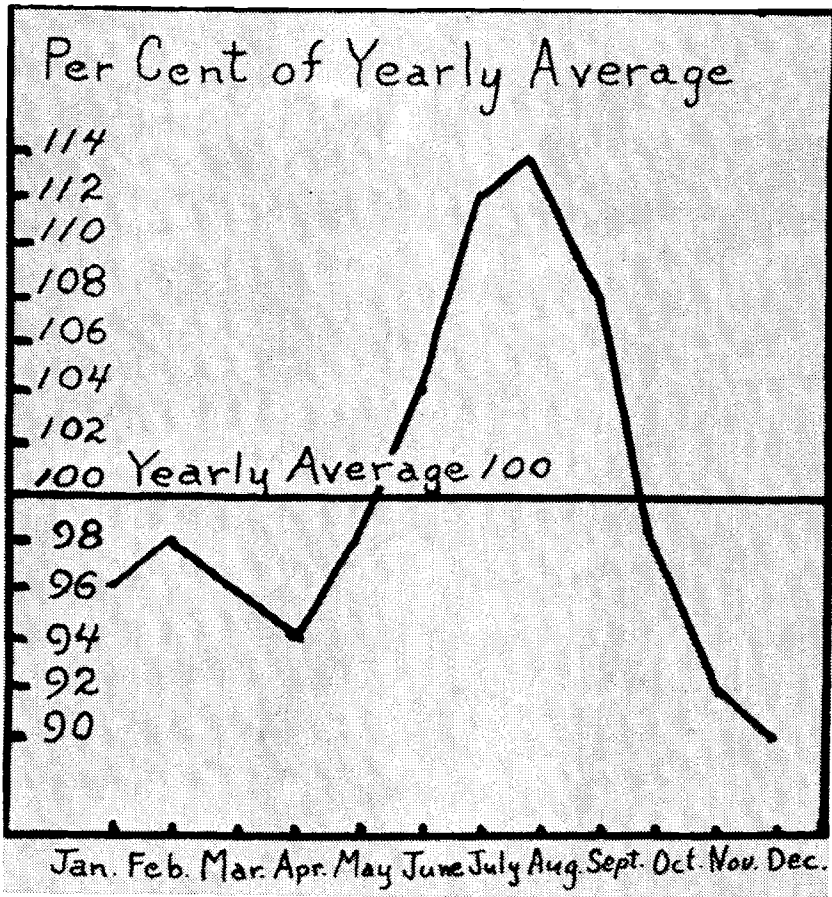
The growing of hogs in Washington county can be justified only to the extent that cheap feeds or waste feeds are available or as they are needed to complement other farm enterprises.

Management practices that are fast becoming a must to the hog breeder is the use of brooders to save pigs, the practice of creep feeding to give the pigs a fast start, providing and rotating improved pastures, periodic worming and delousing for faster gains. Rhinitis appears to be the worst disease facing the swine grower today. Some losses have been traced to cholera, but these can be kept at a minimum if no uncooked garbage is fed, especially uncooked pork products such as bacon rind and trimmings.

Recently a swine grower's association was formed in the county to promote production of high quality hogs. It is expected that this will have some favorable influence on hog production in the county.

Increasing competition makes it more important for the swine producer to watch market trends and arrange his program as nearly as possible to enable him to market on the high markets. As yet, market trends are pretty much dictated by the Middle West swine grower, and he has some very stringent weather regulators that keep him from leveling out the price cycle as much as he would like. The following table shows the present cycle which local growers should attempt to take advantage of as long as it exists.

SEASONALITY ON HOG PRICES — YEARS 1947-53



Goats: Goats have not been of much importance to Washington county agriculture. Angora or milk goats could be used to some advantage to keep down or clear out brush on native pasture and cut-over land to make better grazing conditions for other livestock.

Goats Sideline

Angora goats should not be depended upon for the major portion of a farm income. Under certain conditions, it might be possible to provide a suitable farm income from milk goats. A herd of at least 45 good milk strain goats with adequate replacements will be necessary to maintain profitable production. It will also be necessary

to be prepared to feed grain and hay a good part of the year to keep up production, especially if the pasture is predominately browse. Anyone interested in engaging in a milk goat enterprise should first be sure of a market for his product, and have suitable transportation facilities for daily marketing.

Marketing: The immediate proximity of the markets to Washington county does not create a marketing problem to our livestock raisers. Some attention could well be focused on acquainting producers with market grades and price trends in order that they can do their marketing advantageously.

Dairy Committee Report

Dairy Committee Members

Ed Freudenthal, chairman, and 12 working committee members, in-
nam, Jr., Fred Knox, Chet Wohler,
Remi Coussens, Ralph Christensen,
Fred Grossen, Henry Hagg, Frank
Setniker, DeLane Fry, Leland
Twigg and Charles Herinckx.

Secretary, Palmer Torvend.

Two Trends Evident

The county's present situation in the field of dairying is that two definite trends have taken place. First of all, there has been a reduction in the number of people engaged in dairy farming, and, secondly, there has been an increase in the number of cows maintained on the remaining dairy farms. In 1924, the committee recommended that the minimum number of cows for a profitable enterprise should be at least 10.

In 1946 the number was raised to 20 cows. With the present cost of production situation and the introduction of numerous labor saving devices, the committee believes that dairyman should have about 35 cows for an economic unit for one man to handle efficiently. There are one man dairy farms in our county where 50 and 60 cows are handled, depending on hired help only for special times of the year, such as silage making, hay making, etc.

In order to operate on this larger scale, it is almost necessary that a dairyman have a bulk milk tank and as many of the other mechanical labor saving devices as possible, such as automatic feeders, silage unloaders, large capacity manure spreaders, tractor mounted scoops for handling manure, and loose housing in the form of loafing sheds.

In addition, dairymen of today must be efficient producers of roughages in the forms of pasture

and silage. This efficient production depends on good soil management, including liming for the optimum production of legumes, and certainly where available, irrigation is highly desirable for optimum production.

Pastures Regarded

Strip grazing or daily chopping to bring the pasture to the cattle are the newer methods. Strip grazing offers a number of advantages in that cash costs are lower. High costs make it desirable to do a good job of making silage so that losses are as low as possible.

Dairymen recommend that some type of preservative be used with silage. The most desirable is beet pulp because it also saves a high percentage of the run off which may contain as much as 10 to 14 per cent dry matter. Other preservatives are whole or rolled grain or molasses. There are no run off conserving features with the use of molasses.

A long time problem of the dairy industry has been a factor of unfavorable publicity through the press, national magazines, and radio. Part of this unfavorable publicity stems from the lack of information. In recent years, there has been considerable publicity in national magazines relative to dairy foods in the human diet.

Some medical men recommend dairy foods, and others say that they are not desirable in certain diets. The dairy committee feels that it is extremely important that research be continued in order to be sure that the importance of dairy food in the human diet is known.

The committee recommends that dairymen make a larger contribution for research and dairy promotion to the Oregon Dairy Products commission. The committee suggests that one-half cent per pound of butterfat be set aside on

a year round basis and that this should be a compulsory program for all dairymen.

Start Held Difficult

Another of the problems considered is the high cost of getting into the dairy business today. Concern was expressed over the fact that it is extremely difficult if not almost impossible for young men to get started in the dairy business except on these possibilities:

1. That he is the son of a dairyman and takes over the operation of the home farm on a financial basis that is reasonable and fair to both father and son.

2. That he marries into a family where he is the logical one to take over the operations of a dairy farm.

3. By working as a hired man on a dairy farm on a percentage basis for a long enough time to acquire some equity.

The major costs in addition to the land are as follows: milking parlors, \$10,000 or more; loafing sheds, \$4,000 and up; mechanical feeding equipment, \$2,000 and up; upright silos, \$1,800 and up; bunker type silos, \$1,800 and up; bulk milk tanks, \$2,600 and up; additional costs will depend on the various refinements included.

In recent years there has been quite a trend toward bunker type, above ground silage storage. The success of this type of storage depends upon:

1. The quality of the crop put into the silo, how well the material is packed, the depth of silage (the committee recommends a minimum of 10 feet of settled silage in a bunker silo for minimum spoilage, preferably packed with a wheel type tractor), if alfalfa or other legume crop is the principal part of the silage, the use of some type of preservative, either beet pulp, grain or molasses is usually necessary if the crop is cut direct. Silos should be of such a size that when feeding from it is started a 3 to 6 inch layer of silage will be fed off each 24 hours.

2. The committee recommends that research be continued on the

making and efficient use of silage and silos. They recommend research on direct silage harvesting versus wilting and more research on the best stage of maturity at which to harvest a crop for silage. More research on how to keep legumes in grass pastures both under irrigated and dry land conditions is recommended. A number of farmers are experiencing difficulty in maintaining their pastures even with liming and an apparently good fertilizer program.

Ring Test Eyed

A milk ring test has been proposed as a method of Bangs disease eradication in some sections of the state.

In Washington county dairymen believe the present system has done an excellent job and that the ring test could only be used as another added service to the present testing program, because the present incidents of Bangs disease in this county is less than .1 per cent, making it very difficult to depend on a ring test. Therefore, abandoning the present testing program would be a definite step backwards.

The committee recommends that dairymen themselves make an effort to contact various restaurants, schools, and others, encouraging them to serve milk, particularly at restaurants to serve milk on the same cost basis as coffee for the first glass.

Production records on dairy cattle are becoming increasingly more important today with higher costs of operations. In addition, dairymen must cull low producers if they are to stay as an efficient operating unit. Committee men feel that any dairyman who has set anything less than 400 pounds of butterfat and 8,000 pounds of milk per cow as a goal will have increased difficulty competing within the present day dairy economy.

Dairymen believe some study should be made as to what another dairyman can afford to pay for a cow based on her production at a given price for milk.

Replacements Needed

Replacements needed for a dairy operation were discussed; the range seemed to be between from one cow for every 6 to one cow for every 10 milking cows in the herd. Dairymen using loafing sheds reported that they required fewer replacements than when they were milking in a milking barn. Under the milking barn program they reported four years of milk production average per cow, while in a loafing shed they reported six years average production per cow.

Dairymen say that continued emphasis must be placed on disease and pest control. In the dairy business today a farmer must keep abreast of the changing times.

There are still many opportunities for dairying in Washington county. They are based on efficient pro-

duction of the product, and not on a higher return for the product; producing all the forage possible on the farm of high quality, and operating a large enough unit to keep well employed. As the trend continues, the replacing of hay with pastures and silage is indicated.

Census figures for 1955 show 13,500 cows in Washington county, and the 1956 preliminary census shows 13,000, or a decrease of some 500 cows in one year's period. This trend started approximately two years ago. The average milk production of cows on Dairy Herd Improvement Association tests in Washington County during 1956 was 9,484 pounds of milk and 407 pounds of butterfat. This is considerably higher than the county average for all cows which is about 300 pounds of butterfat and 6,000 pounds of milk.

Farm Crops Committee Report

Farm Crops Committee

Members: Arthur Connell, Chairman, Wesley Batchelder, E. F. McCornack, Chester Robinson, Dave Eischen, Dale Van Domelen, Ed Rieben, Carl Bechen, Alvin Stoller, Albert Coussins, Bernard Seus, Chris Reichen, Don Guerber, Ervin Van Dyke, L. J. Heesacker, Val Schaaf, Alfred Delplance, Richard Wismer, Otto Schaltenbrand, F. C. Putnam, Earl Genzer, Roland Hornecker, Richard Moeller, Harris Hanson, John H. Busch.

Secretary, Wilbur Burkhart.

Present Situation

Income from farm crops totals \$2,340,000. This amount is considerably less than it was during past year. Hay and grain crops are no longer grown on many acres and have been replaced by more highly specialized crops, such as vegetables and small fruits, which show a higher financial return per acre. The committee would not recommend that anyone attempt to farm by growing grain, hay, and seed crops alone on less than 200 acres. It is realized that differences occur in management ability and soil quality, and for this reason a good operator may be expected to maintain an economic unit with as few as 160 acres, but certainly with no less.

Problems considered by this committee include: surpluses, weed control, soil bank, substitute crops' need for tax revenue other than property tax, greater use of forage crops including alfalfa, clovers and similar crops, cover crop, seed utilization, water development and utilization, and government programs which encourage the use of legume cover crop seeds, and continual need for improvement of cultural practices.

High support prices on field peas have caused Southern farmers to turn to other soil building crops such as permanent grasses and legumes which are doing a better job

of soil building. A need exists for developing a cover crop system for the Pacific Coast states to utilize peas and vetches. The tax rate per acre tends to discourage farmers from using this practice on as many acres as should receive cover crops. Little hope can be held for the return of these crops to popular use in the quantities previously experienced.

Water Development

The committee feels that the use of commercial fertilizers and irrigation will increase the production to the level necessary to enable the farmer to sustain his operation in the face of high taxes. Accurate figures are needed to show what water will cost per acre for each type of crop irrigated.

Such figures should show present cost and the projected cost estimate for a period ten years from today. Too little is known at present about the economics of irrigation as it applies to cereal and forage crop production. Research is necessary to answer this question and must be initiated immediately.

Drainage of the less productive land is considered as a first step in increasing the variety of crops that may be included in the rotation. There remains many acres which follow no rotation because lack of drainage forces the production of spring-planted crops. Tile and open ditches can be installed to overcome this problem, if river drainage is improved to provide outlets for the farm drainage systems.

Crops Storage On The Farm

Market conditions today are unfavorable to the producer because the farmers have too little facilities for storage of crops on the farm until market conditions favor their delivery to market. Possession of the crop by a dealer in his warehouse has a depressing effect on the prices offered. There is also a policy in effect whereby a local

dealer receives ten cents a bushel on all grain delivered to a broker directly by a farmer. This arrangement makes it impossible for a farmer to bargain directly with brokers regardless of the quantity of grain to be sold.

It is recommended that all farmers producing grain crops take advantage of federal aid in constructing on-the-farm-storage facilities in order to keep his crop at home and remains in a better position to bargain with a dealer when the time comes for sale of the crop. A cooperative organization organized for the sole purpose of marketing grain and obtaining only the supplies necessary for growing grain may have some merit.

On-the-farm-storage will eliminate the mixing and unsatisfactory handling facilities now experienced at dealer warehouses. At harvest time, local warehouses cannot handle the crops fast enough resulting in more machinery and equipment being necessary on the farm to keep harvest operations running.

It is recommended that storage facilities be constructed on every farm to accommodate 100 per cent of the potential production of the average acreage producing grain. Such storage may also be utilized for the seed and fertilizer supplies needed each year on the farm. Advance purchase and storage of such supplies, result in greater efficiency of crop production.

In planning storage construction, existing structures should be considered for remodeling. At the time of remodeling, building should be done to utilize all possible area. When additional storage is necessary in the form of new buildings, allowances should be made for expansion. Placement of driveways and elevators will not be in the proper places if thought of future needs is not kept in mind.

Consideration should be given portable steel bins and buildings suitable for grain storage. Many are of such design that they may be used for the storage of farm items other than crops. In some instances, the prefabricated steel

buildings will be more economical to utilize for future storage needs.

Small cleaners are desirable for removing green material from seed crops, especially during unfavorable harvest seasons.

Crops Marketing

A definite need exists for more careful harvesting to prevent mechanical injury to crop seeds which lowers germinations. Many farmers are doing poor jobs of harvesting from the standpoint of seed injury even though they may be getting excellent results from the machine so far as the efficiency of harvest is concerned.

Defoliation with chemicals is recommended for the small seeded legume crops as a further prevention of mechanical injury. Harvest conditions are seldom favorable for harvesting high quality seed without the use of defoliant.

Many complaints are coming back to producers regarding the quality of seed consumers are getting. The committee has found that the blending of seed is largely responsible for the complaints. It is recommended that the rules governing blending be more rigid and dealers required to blend only seed that will result in uniform high quality lots. Present blending systems seldom permit high quality seed lots to reach the consumer without first being blended with seed of inferior quality. While this system permits the marketing of lower quality seeds, the producer of the high quality seed seldom receives any premium for his efforts.

Alfalfa can be grown as a soil building legume but is limited to use on those farms where it can be used as livestock feed. Large scale production of alfalfa on every suitable acre for commercial hay purposes is not to be encouraged. This practice should be entered into only when the producer has special arrangements with consumers to assure him a market for his crop. The first cutting will seldom be suitable for hay, but will make excellent silage if adequate preservatives are added at the time it is ensiled.

New varieties of red clover are constantly appearing. Farmers are encouraged to grow these varieties.

When premiums are offered for red clover seed, they are generally confined to the new varieties that are certified. Cultural practices with red clover have changed somewhat and lighter seeding rates are generally encouraged to prevent crown rot fungus infections.

Growers of red clover are urged to consider the use of chemicals to control insects. The use of chemical against the clover root borer, for example, has permitted the harvesting of more than one seed crop from one planting.

Use of lime, early removal of first cutting, and improved cultural practices are cited as factors contributing to the successful growing of red clover on land where it formerly could not be produced.

Corn is suggested as a possibility for a different type cereal crop. Corn is popular as a feed in the Willamette Valley and will generally have a ready market. Variety improvements now permit the profitable production of corn, even though artificial drying may be necessary before marketing. Early planting is stressed as a require-

ment for greatest success in growing this crop.

Weed Control

Weed control is a recommended practice on every farm. Use of new chemicals that do a better job should be made as soon as they are proven.

The committee does not favor the including of additional weeds to the county weed district at the present time. Much effective work is yet to be done on control of Canada thistle and Tansy Ragwort before additional weeds should be considered for addition to the program. Other troublesome weeds are controlled at the same time control measures are being taken for Tansy Ragwort and Canadian thistles.

It is recommended that the county weed committee continue to function in handling the weed control program since weed control applies to horticultural crops as well as cereals and legumes.

It is recommended that the county court give greater consideration to the problems of the county weed committee and become active in policy decisions and law enforcement pertaining to weed control.

Tree Fruits Committee Report

Tree Fruits Committee Members

Tree Fruits Committee members were: Chairman, Gus Krause, Milton Simon, Roland Hornecker, Harry Farr, George Withycombe, Al Teufel, Merle LaFollett, Joe Varner, Victor Lorenz, and L. C. Baron.

Secretary, Lloyd C. Baron.

Tree Fruits Committee Report

During the past 15 years in the United States, the deciduous fruit acreage has declined 28 per cent and per-capita consumption has declined 10 per cent. This has happened in the face of a 25 per cent increase in population that is spending at the rate of 2 and $\frac{3}{4}$ time more than in 1940. On the other hand, citrus acreage has increased 10 per cent and tree nuts 20 per cent nationally during the same period. Since 1946, consumer preference has caused a trebling in tonnage of fruits processed by freezing, and a 20 per cent decrease in the amount of dehydrated fruits other than raisins. The increase in citrus acreage is due largely to the demand for frozen citrus products.

Statistics indicate that Oregon has only 1 per cent of the population in the United States; therefore we must assume that whenever we produce more than 1 per cent of the total tree fruit requirement, it will be necessary to find markets outside the state in competition with other producing areas. This situation exists in the case of apples, cherries, pears, prune, filberts, and walnuts. Only peaches come within the 1 per cent and can rightfully expect to find a home market for the total present production.

Deciduous tree fruit and nut acreage in Washington County has experienced a 27 per cent acreage decline since 1946, without taking into consideration the acreage of walnuts that will be removed as a result of the November 1955 freeze.

Growers feel that marketing in the county has not kept pace with

production. For the most part, marketing is quite disorganized with no strong growers' organization. A thorough study and remedy of the marketing situation would be advisable if the industry is to prosper.

The committee strongly recommends the use of Oregon-grown planting stock whenever planting new orchards or making replacements.

APPLES

Apparently new plantings of apples should be made only as local demand warrants. Fall rains and lack of sunshine does not permit local apples to color up as well as those from areas where sunshine is more plentiful. The red varieties are in greatest demand and will command the best price. The committee felt more work should be done on dwarf fruit trees and their performance, as they might fit in where some commercial production is desired on small acreages with limited equipment.

PRUNES

Washington County is well adapted to prune production, but much of the present acreage is old. Many of these older orchards should be taken out, or at least thinned, so the remaining trees would perform better. It is felt that, since considerable acreage has been taken out in western Oregon, and because prunes grown here can be marketed either canned or dried, limited expansion would be in order. The committee felt that the virus indexing program should be expanded so adequate fast growing, profitable, planting stock such as PrH1 selection will be available for replanting. Good planting stock, along with proper management, are essential for profitable production.

PEACHES

At the present time, all the peaches are marketed fresh, either at the orchard, through roadside stands, or in the Portland area

with no uniform grade standards. Peach marketing has been further hurt by the trend to away-from-home processing of fruits due to the rise in family income.

Growers feel that it costs them \$250 each per acre annually to produce a crop of peaches, and it will cost \$1 a box to pick, sort, and box the fruit.

The committee feels it would be risky to make new plantings in excess of local fresh demand until uniform grades are established, and some pooling arrangement set up to help dispose of the small lots of fruit at the peak of the season.

Peach leaf curl and coryneum blight are still the main disease problems. Recent trials with fixed or proprietary coppers have not given satisfactory control, so the 12-12-100 Bordeaux with spreader is still preferred.

CHERRIES

Cherry growers in the county feel that we have about reached the saturation point on sour cherries, but a limited planting of sweet cherries for processing could prove profitable. Growers contemplating new plantings should get their planting stock from reliable nurserymen, making certain they get virus-free stock such as the Royal Ann selection A-10. Cherry fruit fly and syneta beetle must be held in check if profitable production is expected.

PEARS

Pears are not too important in Washington County at the present time, the total number of pear trees being only about 8,500 trees. The decline has been due largely to the fact that the pears haven't stood up well for processing. Processors mainly prefer a firmer Bartlett and one with a longer neck than is grown in this section of Oregon.

WALNUTS

The 1955 freeze has temporarily chilled the interest in walnut production. It is believed, however, that there is room for some new plantings on adapted soils. The committee recommends against planting strictly franquettes on black root. In their opinion, enough

work has been done to warrant commercial plantings of Adams and Hartley variety walnuts on manregian root stock as soon as planting stock becomes available. They further recommend that additional work be done on varieties to find an earlier maturing variety with good production and meat yield. The trend in Oregon has been away from an in-shell walnut market to a shelled walnut market with about 75 per cent of the crop being shelled the past two or three years. In order to stay competitive with other areas, we need to develop a nut that will yield at least 50 per cent kernel by weight. Closer planting in new orchards has been suggested as a means of getting more production while the trees are young. Some plantings at 30-foot spacings are being tried.

FILBERTS

During the past few years, about one-third of the filbert acreage has been removed, most of which was taken from marginal or unsuitable land. Some acreage was removed from suitable land, but it was orchards that had been neglected. The committee felt there was room for more acreage, but it should be planted only on suitable land. More stress should be placed on getting production above the state average which is 1,200 pounds dry weight, orchard run. Some orchards have rather consistently produced 1 ton per acre and it is felt more should be doing it. Another problem in growing filberts is the high percentage of blanks found in our main Barcelona variety. Some years, this will run as high as 40 per cent which reduced yields materially. Most other varieties grown commercially will not have more than 2 to 5 per cent blanks. Therefore, if a remedy cannot be found for our blank problem, some thought should be given to selecting or breeding a filbert that does not have this characteristic.

Filbert suckers have been controlled successfully with 2-4-D spray at a much less cost per acre than hand suckering. Filbert growers still have the difficulty with the

control of the filbert worm. The length of emergence time complicates the situation and makes at least two sprays or dusts necessary.

HOLLY

Washington County is well adapted to holly production. Prospective growers should not jump in too fast. They should first contact the county agent and two or three established growers, or The Holly Growers' Association to find out what is involved. The latest trend is to plant on a 10-foot spacing where the soil is deep, with the thought in mind of thinning whenever the plants grow together. It will require about 10 years for holly to come into profitable production, and based on present costs, the

grower can expect to have about \$2000 per acre invested by that time. Holly plantings 10 years old, and older, have been grossing about \$400 per acre. At least three to four varieties should be grown in a planting along with two male trees per acre to assure proper pollination. As the industry grows, diseases and insect pests appear that must be controlled. Three to four timely sprays or dustings per season will usually keep them in check. A good fertility and cover cropping program will more than repay the grower for his efforts. The committee thinks there is room for some additional plantings, and cautions the prospective grower to select sites that are well drained and not in frost pockets.

Small Fruits and Vegetable Committee Report

Committee Members

Chairman Arnold Gnos and 14 others contributed. They follow:

Louis Malensky, Ed Carothers, Lloyd Anderson, Milburn Ziegler, Pat Unger, Frank Lillegard, Walt Kahle, George Allison, Albert Jesse, Leon Hubbard, Ray Hertel, Bob Schlegel, Irvin Schlegel and Al Davies.

Secretary, Palmer Torvend.

Small fruits and vegetables are becoming an important part of the cropping program on many commercial farms in Washington County as well as on part-time farms.

The number of acres necessary for an efficient unit are gradually increasing as new developments such as chemical weed control, mechanical harvesting and other labor saving practices are adopted.

Strawberries

Strawberry production in Washington County in 1946 amounted to 1800 acres. At bottom of page is a graph comparison of production in Washington county, Oregon, and the United States.

More information is needed on what crops can profitably be grown in rotation with strawberries. Growers consider that 10 acres make a pretty nice sized unit for one operator, depending largely on his own help except for harvesting. Larger acreage will require additional help beyond what is available in most families.

Soil Building Helps

Soil building practices have become an important part of the berry grower's program. Some of the crops which are showing real promise as excellent soil builders are:

alfalfa, perennial grasses such as alta fescue, and the biennial and annual legumes and cereal crops. There are several instances in the county where strawberries have been grown on the same land for 20 to 30 years, and the soil building practices have been effective enough that present yields are higher than the original yields when the land had been recently cleared.

Chemical weed control in strawberries has been a real help to many growers in reducing cost of cleaning up their strawberry fields each spring. However, the committee urges more research into chemical weed control by the college.

The group listed the following problems on which more research and study is needed, for most efficient production:

1. How much and how often should strawberries be irrigated, and how soon after harvest should they receive their first water? Some growers report that too early irrigation starts too many runners and fall berries. There is little or no research to back up any practices that are followed in this regard.

2. Too much water in the summer seems to cause more berry rot the following season.

3. Study should be made as to the possibility of raising livestock such as sheep and beef, and pasture in a crop rotation with berries. Other rotations that need checking as possibilities include wheat, red clover, which is a short two-to-three year rotation followed by a cover crop before the strawberries.

4. The group recommends that

Comparison of Strawberry Production in Washington County—Oregon—The United States

	Year 1946		AREA Year 1956	
	Yield Acres	Yield per acre Tons	Yield Acres	Yield per acre Tons
United States	90,250	1.42	115,530	2.40
Washington County	1,800	1.3	3,500	2.45
Oregon	7,500	1.8	16,800	2.10

more fertilizer experimentation be made with strawberries. What effect, if any, do minor elements have on strawberry production? Are there any advantages to burning off the foliage of strawberry plants after harvest? What effects does placing the fertilizer down the center of the strawberry mat have on effectiveness of fertilizer application?

5. Growers recommend that strawberries planted on steep land be set out on the contour, or across the prevailing slope.

6. Growers who produce less than two and one-half tons of berries per acre will not be able to compete in the future. They are losing cash money at today's costs and prices, and are supporting their strawberry production with some other enterprise on the farm or other employment.

7. Growers feel that the next three years will determine the future of strawberry production in Washington county. Growers who have the equipment and know how should continue in the business.

8. We do have processing facilities and a fair supply of labor.

9. There is real need for a speeded up research program to develop higher producing varieties. These should be tested in the berry growing counties. Present varieties grown in Washington county include Marshalls, Northwests, and Siletz.

10. Changing market demands including requirement of whole frozen berries and half sliced berries, may change the type of berries that in the future can be profitably grown.

11. One of the more serious insect problems in recent years has been symphyliids. Farmers should check their field thoroughly for symphyliids before planting strawberries. If it is a very desirable piece of land for strawberries, symphyliid control measures must be taken before berries are planted.

Blackcaps, Red Raspberries, Boysen, and Youngberries

Blackcap acreage in Washington county at one time was around 900 acres. This past season it was

somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 acres. Red raspberries, boysen and youngberries are no longer grown on a commercial scale. A number of growers have gone out of the business because they were unable to grow one ton per acre, and the fields that used to last 6 to 8 years now will give satisfactory production for only 1 to 3 years.

The problems of growing these berries in Washington county are numerous. Much research is needed to find the answers to these problems which have reduced production.

Yields of two to three tons should be a minimum to meet present day economic conditions. The problems include disease control, better insect control measures, a plant improvement program, need for more efficient chemical and cultural weed control, and need to develop better fertilizer practices. One of the most serious diseases in the area is verticillium wilt. Blackcaps can be grown successfully only on the best drained soil. Heavy clay soils that have a high water table in the winter time are not satisfactory. Some research is necessary to determine the value of irrigation. Present reports indicate a strip of permanent cover down the center between the rows on irrigated fields is a good practice. If a few of the problems can be solved, growers should be justified in some increase in acreage. Growers are interested in what soil treatments with chemicals can be made before planting blackcaps in order to control diseases and insects. More research should be carried on with chemical weed control to determine the most efficient application and materials. At present, the greatest opportunity for most of these berries, except blackcaps, is for the u-pick or fruit stand market.

Gooseberries

The yield of this crop ranges from 2 to 5 tons per acre. Growers with a 2-ton yield have difficulty in staying in the business, while those with a yield of 5 tons or better do fairly well. Mildew control is a

serious problem for many growers. Anyone planting gooseberries should carefully check the market possibilities before making the planting.

Blackberries

Including all trailing berries

There has been some increase in the acreage planted to tame blackberries in Washington County during the past two years. The market for this crop has been fairly good, but here again it would be easy to run into a snag due to high price of the product at the retail, wholesale, and grower level because consumers will buy lower priced fruits.

Blueberries

Blueberry production is mostly on either diversified or part-time farms, frequently being a hobby for someone engaged in some other business or job. The market potential seems to be somewhat limited.

Peas

Production of this crop at present is limited entirely by the amount that will be contracted by Birds Eye. The average price per ton has been about \$100 with yields ranging from 1½ to 2 tons per acre. One ton per acre would be required just to pay the cash expenses. An increased yield per acre for more profitable production is definitely needed.

Beans

Two types of beans are grown—pole and bush. One of the serious problems in the production of this crop is the lack of processing facilities. There are enough acres and growers who know how to grow these crops in the county to justify another processor coming into the area to handle them.

The average grower has about 10 acres of beans. The problems of bean production include aphids, symphyliids, white mold, and red root diseases, and blossom drop. In most cases with adequate soil, the yard should last the life of the poles. Some growers' fields have been shorter-lived because of soil conditions. The price for beans recently has been ranging between \$105 and \$110 per ton. Growers re-

port cash costs between \$65 and \$75 per ton. A minimum yield of 8 tons would be necessary to stay in business at present costs.

Wax Beans

A number of wax bean varieties have been tested locally. Yields for satisfactory production of the crop here should be between 4 and 5 tons per acre. Some growers have obtained as high as 6. More research is needed to develop a variety that does not sunburn, one that has better color, quality, and matures uniformly. Wax beans are quite unpredictable yielders in this area.

Sweet Corn

The average yield of sweet corn is about 6½ tons per acre. Some farmers are getting as high as 8 and 10 tons. The acreage ranges from 700 to 1,000 acres per year, depending upon the processor requirements. A high percentage of the corn is quick frozen. Local growers are competing with other areas where wages are lower.

Squash

Many improvements have been made in squash production during the past 10 years. Yields have been increased from an average of 6 tons to nearly 24 tons per acre, this past season, with some growers reporting over 30 tons per acre. The acreage in production has stayed much the same, ranging around 350 acres. Additional processing facilities would be very desirable from the growers' standpoint.

Broccoli and Cauliflower

These crops should not be grown by anyone without a contract, unless one is gambling on the fresh market, which fluctuates very widely. The serious problem of these crops has been club root, a fungus disease that works on the roots.

Onions

Onion growers have had four bad years in a row. They have had either poor markets or poor crops or both. This is a crop that doesn't offer much opportunity for new growers. Many old timers are experiencing serious difficulties staying in the business. Some new possibilities in onion production might be in the new hybrid varieties and

in the growing of small pickling onions. However, these still need to be developed. The acreage grown in Washington County varies from 475 to 575 acres per year, with the present trend down.

Summary

Summarizing the requirements of a successful vegetable and small fruit grower, the committee emphasizes that only certain people are

going to be successful. To be successful in the production of these crops, a person must have special interest or liking to grow them, and be able to get along with the harvesting labor. Successful growers are required to give special attention and care to such things as insect control, disease control, fertilization, labor relations, equipment, irrigation, and record keeping.

STRAWBERRIES

Average Cost Per Acre Figured On An Average Of 10 Acres

(1) Dry Land	4,200	(1) Irrigated	6,000*
Plants	\$84.00	.....	\$120.00
Plowing	4.00	.....	4.00
Harrowing and Discing (3 times)	4.50	.....	4.50
Marking or Machine Planting	1.00	.....	12.00**
Hand Planting	24.00	.....	.....
Cultivation (5 times) @ \$3.	15.00	.....	15.00
Hoeing and setting runners	100.00	.....	100.00
Fertilizer and green manure	60.00	.....	60.00
Taxes, Insurance and Repair	18.00	.....	18.00
Interest on Land	12.00	.....	20.00
.....	@ \$300.	.....	@ \$500.
Weevil Control			
(pre-planting soil treatment)	20.00	.....	20.00
Dust Aphids	10.00	.....	10.00
Irrigation (4) (\$1. per acre labor) .....		.....	10.00
Includes depreciation figured that more than 10 acres on this farm			
are irrigated with this same equipment			
Depreciation on Stand	120.00	.....	15.00 Dep.
Harvesting help—exclusive of picker	40.00 per acre	.....	140.00
Transportation help	75.00	.....	40.00 per acre
.....		.....	75.00

Doesn't include the cost of cover crops where strawberries are the only cash crop

Frost control—cost from 0 to \$50. per acre.

1/ Plants set out— per acre.

*Some growers prefer to plant many more plants per acre and control all runners. Plants figured at \$20. per thousand.

**Cost for machine planting.

Land Use Committee Report

Land Use Committee

Members: W. T. Putnam, Jr.—Chairman, Clayton Nyberg, Ralph Christensen, E. E. Guerber, Frank Baily, Blaine Brown, L. J. Heesacker, Joe McBurney, Merton Sahnaw, Fred Knox, Milton Simon, Richard Wismer.

Secretary, Wilbur Burkhart.

The committee considered changing its name from "Land Use Committee" to "Natural Resources Committee". It was decided to retain the original name but define the matters considered by the committee. These matters include: Land utilization, forestry including farm woodlots, water resources and development, mineral resources, conservation of soil, water, fish, game and natural recreation and beauty areas. Matters pertaining to land division, industrial development and land classification become a responsibility of the "Land Use Committee".

Water Resources

Use of water for irrigation of all types of crops grown in Washington county has grown steadily since 1930. Farmers are faced with the problem of fixed costs of operation going up steadily. In order to meet the rising costs, greater production per acre is necessary. This can be accomplished by the growing of improved varieties, use of commercial fertilizers and the use of irrigation.

At the present time, farmers hold water rights for a quantity of water three times that actually available during the normal irrigation season beginning in May and terminating in late September. Water for domestic purposes barely meets the demand during the summer months for those cities within Washington county.

Industry cannot be assured a supply of water to maintain operation during the summer. Water from wells is expensive and very uncertain. This makes it necessary

for future supplies, to meet the demand of the growing population to come from the development of reservoirs. Such reservoirs can be built in the hill lands with distribution systems that will supply both the agricultural and domestic needs.

Best Agency Sought

The committee recommends that steps be taken for early development of the water resources in an orderly manner by the agency that can best do the job. This will be determined by a study of the proposals for development offered by each agency concerned.

It is further recommended that more widespread research and education be conducted on crop water requirements, efficient use of irrigation water and better water utilization. Examples of better water utilization exist in three places within the county. Waste water of such a nature as to be extremely dangerous to marine life is first utilized for irrigation before it finds its way to flowing streams.

The pioneers in this technique are the cities of Hillsboro and Forest Grove which are utilizing water from municipal sewage disposal plants and the Stimsons mill which allow water from a fiberboard plant to be used first for pasture irrigation instead of being discharged directly into Scoggin creek.

In achieving water development, consideration must be given to the needs for recreation, pollution abatement, fish conservation and preservation of natural beauty along the Tualatin river and tributaries. This is in addition to the primary needs for irrigation and domestic use.

The committee wishes to call attention to the newly enacted "Small Watershed Law" enabling farm construction of small reservoirs with financial aid from the federal government. Farmers and others are urged to support local requests for increased public assistance on

the construction of small farm reservoirs where the cost of construction is too great for an individual to bear alone.

Drainage Problems

Annual flooding of land lying along the Tualatin river and its tributaries seriously limits crop production on an estimated 11,000 acres. Another 10,000 acres suffer from poor drainage which results in poor cropping practices. Annual flooding will not permit the production of other than spring planted annual crops. Rock reefs in the river bed in the vicinity of Tualatin are largely responsible for this condition.

Drainage is further retarded by a very crooked river channel now filled with brush and debris. As an initial step, it is recommended that early priority be given to removing the present dam and reef barrier along that portion of the river where it becomes an obstacle to drainage.

The work will require the construction of a collapsable dam which may be lowered in the winter and raised in the summer to provide water storage for irrigation and a continued supply of fresh water for lake Oswego.

It appears that it would be cheaper to get most of the debris removed by the farmers owning land along the Tualatin river than by some public agency. The committee approves the cost-sharing type of plan, so coordinated that all farmers perform their share of debris removal within reasonable time limitations.

Federal Help Sought

It is recommended that a responsible federal agency be requested to arrange a program furnishing federal aid to landowners for debris and brush removal. The aid should provide for performing stream bank work to protect against erosion in places where stream cleanout causes an accelerated rate of flow.

The committee wishes to point out that a water right is required for all water used for irrigation,

regardless of the source. All persons planning to construct wells for either irrigation or domestic purposes must obtain permits from the State Engineer before construction is started.

Forestry Program

Disposition of county owned timber lands creates a problem for the county officials. Cut-over lands may be reforested with state aid if the county will transfer title to the state. If transferred the county would lose revenue from summer homes that could be located on these lands.

Committee recommends that the county retain title to such lands and create an advisory body known as "Washington County Forestry Planning Commission" to advise county officials on the best disposition of such lands. Commission membership should include professional foresters, loggers, farmers and businessmen in order to reflect the opinions of people from all walks of life.

Present rate of cutting of farm woodlots is too rapid. Result is that many very immature stands of timber are cut only because the farmer needs the money to finance farm improvements. If such woodlots were left to grow, they would increase their value several times in a ten year period and during that time allow an attractive income per acre from limited selective cutting practices.

Woodlot Loans Asked

It is recommended that proper authorities be contacted to create a federal or state agency to loan money on the present value of the farm woodlot. The loan would be of a long term nature and would provide for protection of the agency finances through proper insurance and contract. This will allow the owner to postpone even selective cutting until such time as the products harvested will be of greatest value. Landowners are encouraged to take advantage of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program assistance

now offered in establishing and improving farm woodlots.

It is further recommended that a forestry committee be organized to function as a part of the county agricultural planning council. A committee consisting of Roland Hornecker, H. H. Scott, and Joe McBurney is appointed by the land use committee to work with county farm forester Kenneth Palen in organizing the "Farm Forestry Committee". The committee is instructed to report its progress to the "land use committee" before the next fall meeting of the agricultural planning council. The "land use committee" will cease to handle farm forestry matters upon notification of the organization of the farm forestry committee having been accomplished.

Land Use Policy

The demand for land for home sites for an increasing population has created a serious tax burden on the farmer-landowners. It is recommended that the county planning commission familiarize all landowners with the principles and objectives of zoning and accumulate information on all types of zoning for future consideration. In much of the area feeling the pressure of the demand for more area for home construction the nature of the soil is such that agricultural production cannot possibly continue to pay the increased taxes and operating expenses.

A system of taxation based upon use of the land appears to have enough merit to warrant further study of action that can be taken to protect Washington county agriculture. Of necessity this is being done in California near metropoli-

tan areas. It is the one system that has saved many large farms, especially dairy farms, operating near the large cities.

Use of land for cropping involves careful planning to maintain fertility and productivity. There is a widespread need for more use of soil building crops and practices in place of repeated production of soil depleting crops.

Mixture Advised

The committee believes that dairy farmers making grass silage should use legume-grass mixtures rather than growing grass alone. This practice will result in a reduced requirement for commercial nitrogen fertilizer and will allow shorter rotations. Owner of lower bench lands will not be able to follow this practice until river improvement works is undertaken to cause better drainage that is necessary for legume production.

A definite need exists for new crops which may be grown under irrigation. The last introduction of a new crop adapted to irrigated conditions was made in 1926 when Ladino clover came to Oregon. Need exists for information on production of grain under irrigation and the committee feels that research is behind in information and development of cereal varieties adapted to irrigated conditions.

It is the desire of this committee that Oregon State college be requested to initiate immediate research on cereal, forage, including silage, and seed crops particularly tailored to irrigated conditions. Agriculture will continue to move into higher degrees of specialization which will require crops developed to growing under specialized conditions.

Poultry Committee Report

Poultry Committee

Members: Howard Hughes, chairman, Frank Erickson, Ross Hart, Benson Mitchell, James Higgins, D. D. Perkins, Victor Lewis, James Powers.

Secretary, Milfred Reed and Joe Cox.

Washington County now stands third among Oregon counties in value of market egg production. Market eggs bring from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 to Washington County farms. Today, Oregon does not produce sufficient eggs for internal consumption. Our prices are influenced by surplus production areas, in particular southern California.

Anyone contemplating entry into the market egg production field must have a liking for poultry. He must, above all, have the ability to understand his birds, and he must be able to analyze their needs by studying their actions. In other words, good "animal psychology" is a great help.

Most fields of poultry science have been well explored, and resultant data may be readily secured. Individual experimentation can be very costly, and is seldom valuable. Profit by the experience of others. To evaluate the poultry production in Washington County, the U.S. Department of Agriculture poultry census for 1955 should be considered. This is the findings of the census:

Poultry and Products Sold

Farms reporting	1,199
Dollar value	2,516,493

Broilers

Farms reporting	36
Number raised	460,223
Dollar value	335,695

Chicken Eggs Sold

Farms reporting	1,046
Dozen eggs	4,385,201
Dollar value	1,673,973

Turkeys Raised

Farms reporting	56
Number	77,531

Number of Farms in

Washington County	3,676
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Average size of Farms

(acres)	64.3
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In setting up a poultry enterprise in Washington County, due consideration should be given to possible future zoning and residential development. The cheapest land to be had will prove the best for poultry, giving better possibilities of ranging the growing stock, and the cheap or run down land can be built up to very productive levels by the use of poultry fertilizer.

The poultry program in Washington County offers three phases — egg production, broilers, and turkeys. Persons considering entering any phase of poultry production should contact established producers, and the county extension office for information and advice. Time spent in planning and discussion is well spent, and should be the number-one requirement before entering into the field.

Egg Production

Prospective producers of eggs should give serious consideration to the source of marketing their product. Marketing each year becomes more specialized as to grade, packaging, and brand names. Great care must be taken to produce the highest quality eggs at all times. The market for eggs can only be increased by constant effort to improve the quality of the egg that reaches the consumer. Humidity and refrigeration in the egg room, as well as frequent marketing, are essential.

The matter of floor management of layers versus cage systems must be resolved by the individual. A thorough study of existing systems should be made by anyone contemplating a cage installation. Management problems with cages are entirely different from those of floor systems.

As profit margins decrease, larger units are necessary to maintain satisfactory income. As poultry units increase in size, disease control is becoming more complex. More attention must be given to diseases, and continued research and application of results is essential.

Some may wish to supply eggs to hatcheries. Here again, great care must be exercised. Most hatching egg supply flocks are maintained for broiler hatchers. One must consider the increased cost of raising and feeding this stock, as well as lower egg production as compared to laying stock. Contracts involving hatching eggs should be carefully examined, preferably by an attorney.

The cost of housing involved in egg production is approximately \$5.00 per bird over a twenty year depreciation period. A minimum laying flock of 5,000 birds recommended for an economic unit.

The Committee recommends that egg producers avoid becoming involved in "vertical integration" contracts. Local financing, where the operator maintains control of his flock, is much more desirable.

Broilers

The broiler production phase of the poultry enterprise in Washington county represents a small portion of the over-all poultry income. Over a period of years, this phase of production has been on a decline in the county, due to several factors. These are high feed cost, high labor cost, expensive land, and low market prices. Other areas of the United States have been shipping birds in under refrigeration at a price cheaper than local producers can consistently compete against.

Turkeys

Over the past ten years, there has been a continual reduction in the turkey numbers in Washington County. As a short term business, the turkey enterprise fluctuates with market prices, with numbers increasing with good prices and falling off with lower prices.

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