DOUGLAS COUNTY
OUTLOOK CONFERENCE
MARCH
1957
COMMITTEE
REPORTS
## INDEX

### PLANNING CONFERENCE

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FOREWORD

This booklet contains the outlook reports of ten committees dealing with farm and rural living in Douglas County.

The committees were appointed by the Agriculture Planning Council in cooperation with the Extension Service of Oregon State College for the purpose of determining the economic status and condition of agriculture and rural living in the community, and to make recommendations for use in the future. As in three previous conferences, held at ten year intervals, each committee viewed past and present trends prior to making outlook predictions and recommendations for the future.

It is the hope of your planning council that the information contained in these reports will influence developments in farm and rural living to the greatest possible advantage.

Ray E. Doerner
General Chairman
Douglas County Agriculture Planning Conference
In Douglas County there is a need for an analysis of the problems that face youth organizations based on a review of the past few years. These years saw drastic changes in our economy as well as the introduction of new factors influencing social development.

The Youth Committee met to focus attention on the need for readapting the homes, schools, churches, and youth organizations in various communities of Douglas County. These included both rural and urban representation. Ideas were presented and cataloged into five distinct categories. The following ideas are not in any way intended to be dogmatisms, but do reflect the view of a sample of folk intimately concerned with helping today's youth become better citizens tomorrow.

The Parents' View and Related Difficulties

Problems

1. It is primarily the parents' responsibility to guide the youth's non-school time. Many parents do not seem to accept this idea or any others with regard to the placement of this responsibility.

2. Many parents feel that they should remain away or apart from organized youth activities. Some of this may be due to the fact that some of them might be offended to some degree by outside offers to take care of their youngster's free time.

3. There is a trend back to more interest in their children, as evidenced by parent conferences at school.

4. Church membership may be correlated with parental lack of interest. The problem is magnified in Douglas County as shown by the following figures: The national average of church membership is 61%. Douglas County's average is 30%, or less than half.

5. Many of today's parents are the result of times of tension. They grew up during wartime, when major attention was focused upon wartime matters. Consequently, their parents, in many cases, didn't have the chance to spend time with them.

Recommendations

1. A help to parents would be a guide to family planning which would include rearing the children and methods of teaching responsibility.

2. It is sometimes possible to work through the youngsters to arouse parent curiosity and then bring about enthusiasm and cooperation.
Youth Centers

1. View the home as the youth center first.

2. There is some question of the value of promoting and organizing a new youth center when there is very incomplete use made of existing facilities.

3. In planning a youth center, one too closely associated with the school may be handicapped because of the school-like atmosphere and pre-existing regulations.

4. Youth centers may be developed through promotion by service clubs. Usually they are governed by student boards in cooperation with a parent board.

5. It is possible that Oregon State College can gather material on setting up and operating a successful youth center and can list such pitfalls as insurance, discipline, incorporating, and operational expenses.

Youth Organizations

In general it was felt that training material available to leaders is adequate if the present rate of improving materials is continued. In most cases it is free of charge.

Selling the Youth Program

1. Parents have to be sold first.

2. Underselling a prospective leader is a mistake. He needs to be told the full job when he is deciding whether or not to help or else he will be likely to drop out in the middle of the project.

3. If youth programs are to remain successful, communities should be encouraged to participate in them to the fullest extent. The best publicity in the world is success.

4. Personal contact is the best way to sell a youth program and this personal contact has to be repeated often. The youth program salesman has to realize that several contacts usually are necessary before one is successful.

Older Youth as Junior Leaders

1. Some success is possible using older youth as junior leaders.

2. Youngsters who participate in a youth program at an early age may become disinterested when they are older, but a junior leader program will encourage them to continue.
Obtaining and Utilizing Leaders

1. Many leaders are key people who have a full schedule and their time needs to be used efficiently.

2. Many times it is best to have one leader for each leadership job.

3. Leaders need to be notified about events in plenty of time.

4. Leaders need to learn how to develop other leaders.

5. A time limit on leadership jobs is suggested.

6. Leaders should be taught the use of publicity.

Youth Training

Enable parents and youngsters to evaluate their time by helping to answer the following questions: What constitutes an adequate program? How much extra-curricular activity is necessary? How much and to what extent should or can we participate? How can youngsters and their needs be analyzed?

Schools should limit the amount of school clubs and activities. (A point system would work to limit "joiners" and to encourage those who feel they don't have much of a chance.)

Have family planning material available to parents to help the home again become the first youth center. Include such things as the use of the TV set, selection of literature, and entertainment at home.

School curricula, especially in the upper grades, should include more training on how children can become good parents. Also something should be made available to parents to use in the home training of their youngsters.
Public Relations with Regard to Youth

A youth activities section in the local paper might be feasible.

Youth publicity should be centralized and channeled to news outlets.

It is better to recognize with more enthusiasm the accomplishments of youth, rather than over-publicize the items of deleterious nature.

A sub-committee, whose members were Delmar Murphy, Rev. Newell Morgan, and Mrs. Alfred Meyer, met with Editor Stanton to learn more about newspaper relations. Stanton was complimented on the high school page that has been appearing in the News-Review. The committee presented a view that the page could be enlarged to include activities of all youth groups. Stanton reported that there is more room for such material as the newsprint supply is becoming more plentiful. He emphasized that fresh news is imperative. He also stated that he had been making a study of favorable and unfavorable publicity with regard to youth. His findings indicated that the ratio of favorable to unfavorable was better than five to one.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:

1. That this report be used by local or community groups, by placing it in the hands of those groups that have an interest in youth. As an example, the interim report has already been used as a discussion guide at a special PTA meeting. It was a though stimulator and doubtless many ideas were carried home.

2. That the conclusions of the committee be reported to the newspapers.

3. That the report be placed in the hands of youth organizations to indicate local current thought on various youth-associated problems.

4. That the report be sent to Oregon State College.
The committee feels that more information is needed on clothing and basic sewing, including new fabrics, techniques, and construction methods. Classes should be given to teach pattern fitting and alteration, sewing shortcuts, mending, alterations and make-overs, new methods of construction, children's clothing, and factory methods. Some phase should be presented each year.

The committee also recommends that refresher courses be given about new fabrics, including information on how to sew, launder, press, and other features.

**Foods and Nutrition**

Homemakers need to learn more about the preparation and preservation of foods, the committee feels. Some information should be given on food preservation at least every three years. In addition to presenting the usual foods projects in classes, emphasis should be placed on balanced meals, and nutrients and their retention in food preparation.

**Home Management Equipment and Economics**

The committee believes homemakers should learn how to manage their homes in order to use money, time, and energy to better advantage.

Some help is needed on planning and purchasing, particularly in foods, but also in clothing, household equipment, appliances, and other household items.

More information is also needed on housekeeping shortcuts.

**Home and Grounds**

**Home Planning**

The average home is not planned adequately for pleasant and efficient family living.

**Recommendations**

1. That proper space be provided in all areas for the number of people living in the home. (Enough closets, larger kitchens and dining rooms).

2. That adequate heating systems be installed.

3. That adequate storage space, including pantries and coolers, be provided for fruits, vegetables, and canned products, to permit quantity buying, according to the size of the family.
4. That a covered entryway, or partially enclosed small porch, be built to protect the threshold and those entering.

5. That, if possible, the home be planned so that television may be used in two different rooms for the convenience and enjoyment of the entire family.

**Landscaping**

The problem is how to motivate people to want to clean up the community and county. This should include private homes and yards, public buildings and grounds, and roadsides.

It was recommended that a concerted program be activated immediately, with all organizations possible cooperating in a community improvement program on a county-wide basis, including the county court, Chamber of Commerce, schools, granges, radio, television, garden clubs, home extension, churches, newspaper publicity, Campfire Girls, Boy Scouts, H-H Clubs, Y.M.C.A., community, service, and civic organizations.

More help is needed on what plantings to use around the home. The committee suggested that a landscape plan be worked out, including:

1. One general county-wide meeting to be held each year.

2. One demonstration yard, to be selected each year - using both nursery and native shrubs, explaining the life of the plants, how to care for them, and other information.

3. To be followed through by checking the demonstration plantings the second year, but holding a new demonstration in a different community.

**Family Gardens**

In order to increase the number of family gardens, the committee suggested as follows:

1. That each family with available space grow a garden of sufficient size to furnish the family with vegetables.

2. That garden clubs, the Farm Bureau, Granges, Home Extension and other such groups teach soil building, most suitable varieties, and new varieties of vegetables to be grown for this area.

3. That the garden be irrigated, if possible. If this is a prohibitive expense, conservation of moisture through proper mulching and earlier gardens is advised.

4. That emphasis be placed on the nutritional value of "from the garden to the table" vegetables. This could be carried out through such mediums as newspapers and radios.
5. That a study should be made as to the possibility of establishing a community cannery. It is felt that this might encourage more family gardens.

Sanitation

The committee felt that the sanitation facilities in the home and community are inadequate and recommended as follows:

1. That instructions on adequate sewage disposal units be issued with the building permit. It is also suggested that these systems (drain fields) be inspected before they are covered.

2. That septic tanks and drain fields be installed in compliance with the state code. Older septic tanks should be checked to be sure they are adequate and in good working order.

3. That old drainage fields be checked to see that they are adequate and comply with the state code.

4. That in some areas composed of homes on small lots there is a problem of sewage disposal. These areas should be checked frequently, for the health of the community.

Health

Mental health, safety on the farm and in the home, convalescent homes and homes for the aged, immunizations, and sanitation were among the problems discussed by this committee.

They recommended:

1. That a study be made as to the possibility of establishing a family guidance or counseling service. It is suggested that the group work with the County Health Department and other agencies to accomplish this aim.

2. That all organized groups emphasize safety in the home and on the farm. That since farm and home accidents are a constant problem, resulting in loss of life, limbs and income, short skits be used in various organizations on this subject.

3. That the possibility of having some group establish a home for the aged in Douglas County be investigated.

4. That the public be cautioned to investigate carefully before placing relatives in convalescent home and homes for the aged.
5. That licensed homes be used whenever possible because there is some control over them.

6. That legislation now proposed for the licensing of nursing homes and operators be passed.

7. That all children and adults, at least up to 40 years of age, have polio shots.

8. That civic groups and other organizations promote an education program to acquaint the public with regulations governing sewage disposal and the conditions existing in the county.

9. That the public be informed as to the additional sewage disposal requirements for such household equipment as washing machines and garbage disposal units.

10. That all groups cooperate with the county health department in working out some of these problems.

Civic

General

Several local election problems were discussed. The committee felt that these elections are inadequately publicized and recommended that a news story be given to local newspapers at least 30 days prior to election. The group also felt that those serving on election boards were not paid enough, and recommended that they be paid at least as much as the established minimum fee.

In order to encourage civic leadership, the committee recommended that an attempt be made to stimulate interest in civic enterprise in every field, and courtesy and respect be extended to leaders.

The problems of lack of interest in church and religious matters, and lack of neighborliness, were considered. The committee believes that people should be more neighborly and show more interest in others. It also suggested being more friendly to newcomers.

Schools

The major problem, the committee believes, is to keep schools under local control. Recommendations are as follows:

1. That there be no request for federal funds for schools in Oregon.

2. That programs be favored which will strengthen local control and oppose legislation which could destroy local autonomy.
3. That the jurisdiction and financing of schools be kept on the community level.

**Long-Range County Planning**

The committee discussed whether the payroll could be held at a high enough level to assure the economy of the county over a 10 year span.

It was recommended that the Water Resources Board be supported in working out a system for water conservation which could be used for power, and possibly attract more diversified industry to the area.

The second long-range problem concerned the loss of sheep because of dogs, and the fact that these losses are not adequately reimbursed.

It was suggested that an election be held in Douglas County to begin operating under Section 2, O.R.S. 609.090 of Oregon Law, which has to do with the restriction of dogs running at large in the county, and also specifies a $10 fine plus the dog's keep, assessed by the Dog Control Officer.

**SUBURBAN LIVING AND PART-TIME FARMING COMMITTEE**

Country living appeals to many people. Few of them have had the experience of living in the country and a firsthand knowledge of the problems that may arise from residing in urban and rural areas.

The desire to have a home in the country may come from wanting a larger living space for the family, an escape from crowded and congested living conditions in towns and cities; it may result from wanting an opportunity to produce part of the family food requirements or possibly the opportunity to supplement the family income by producing and marketing farm commodities or specialities providing a greater feeling of security in case of employment.

Whatever the reason for wanting to live in the country, there are many vital questions that should be considered before buying a place in urban and rural areas. Living in an urban or rural community has its advantages and disadvantages, and the desires of the whole family should be considered. Enjoyment, satisfaction, and contentment from living in the country depends largely upon how well the place fulfills the family's needs and desires.

It is important to recognize that the urban or rural family will have to provide certain facilities provided by towns, cities, and highly improved communities, such as a pure and adequate water supply and sewage disposal.
These facilities are necessary for comfortable living conditions and may prove extremely expensive, often inadequate and soul-trying if not given careful study and definitely determined before property is purchased.

It is not the purpose of the report to discourage anyone with the desire for country living, but to point out particular things that have become problems for people who have purchased places in the country, and then found they did not have the happy situation and enjoyment they expected. The men and women preparing this report are now living in urban and rural areas, and have experienced or observed conditions and situations which might have been avoided by careful and thorough investigations before buying a place in urban or rural areas.

The following suggestions are made with the hope that people interested in living in the country may use them as a guide or yardstick in deciding what are the important things to be considered in selecting and purchasing a place for a home or part-time farming operation in the country. It is the unanimous opinion of all committee members that fewer mistakes and disappointments will result if people interested in living in the country will accept and be guided by the suggestions that follow.

What Kind of a Place?

The first important decision to make is - do all members of the family agree and approve of living in the country? Inability to see alike at this point can easily lead to an unhappy experience.

Then, what kind of a place in the country is desired? A country home with an opportunity to grow and produce a portion of the family food requirement? A country home with facilities to provide a supplemental income from production and sale of farm commodities or specialities? Or a country home and small farm as the first step toward full-time farming?

If it is to be more than just a country home, will members of the family have the time and willingness to do the work required?

What about transportation for members of the family, when the head of the family uses the family car for getting to and from work? Will it be necessary to have a second car or is other means of transportation available? Transportation facilities required by all the family could exceed any savings accruing from living in the country and become a burden on the family income. Transportation costs should be figured at a minimum of six cents a mile. Distance from employment, market, schools, churches, and entertainment required and demanded by the family are important.
Selecting the Community

It is well to consider the present development and potential future development in the community.

Is the property within a reasonable distance from present and future employment possibilities?

Are there church and school facilities available that meet the family requirements?

Are the people in the community friendly, cooperative, progressive and do they have a standard of living and income comparable to your family?

If part-time farming is to be considered, then available labor, if needed, should be considered.

Utilities and Services

Most communities in urban and rural areas of the county have electric and telephone service. County roads and secondary highways are adequate and being improved.

Where private roads are required it is advisable to check on easements, improvement, and maintenance costs that may be required annually.

The supply of domestic water or its availability at reasonable cost is a necessity. Many rural areas of the county lack a dependable supply of good water for household use. Excessive costs to secure an adequate and dependable supply of water the year around makes property less desirable. Modern family conveniences require more water than formerly and an adequate water supply becomes of greater necessity as time passes.

Sewage disposal is also important. It should be determined if the site and soil conditions are suitable for septic tanks and whether there is danger of pollution of the domestic water supply from the owner's sewage disposal system, or those of adjoining property owners.

Some rural and urban communities have rural fire departments. In rural fire protection districts, insurance rates are more favorable for the property owner.

Zoning regulations may or may not be of importance. The Winchester-Garden Valley area north of Roseburg is zoned, which regulates to a degree the construction of buildings and the subdivision of property. Zoning can be enacted by a majority of local residents to restrict the numbers and kinds of animals that can be kept and raised.
Property taxes are assessed to maintain services performed by the county and several kinds of districts. It is well to ascertain what tax-levying bodies have authority to assess property taxes in a community, and what the total anticipated levies are or may be in the immediate future.

The Land and Site

The location, land (soil), and site have much to do with the desirability of property for a country home or limited farming operations. It is important and wise, often expedient, to purchase sufficient land to fit needs and desires for the present and future. Many urban and rural areas are developing rapidly. Tomorrow or next week may be too late to purchase adjoining property.

The location should be favorable for the purposes for which the land is being purchased. For a home it is important to have good drainage, free from floods - overflowing of streams, swales and ravines - or a high water table during prolonged precipitation.

If crops are to be grown or livestock raised, it is important that the soil be adapted to such use. Good, rich, fertile soil is desirable. Water available for irrigation increases the production potential and the variety of crops that can be grown.

Erosion hazards and weed problems should be avoided wherever possible.

Building and Equipment

Where there are buildings on the property, they should be adequate to meet the family requirements or the purchaser should be in a position financially to make alterations in a reasonable period of time. It is important to have accurate estimates on costs of alterations or immediate improvements that will be needed before, not after, making a purchase. Such cost might not justify purchase of the property at the price asked.

Farming equipment is expensive and depreciation is great. Investment in capital goods as equipment could easily exceed the value of the property and eliminate any chance of profit from crops or livestock raised.

Paying for the Place

All conditions - family agreement, the community, utilities and services, the land and site, buildings and equipment - being favorable, the decision to buy or not to buy rests largely on the cost or sales price, and method of financing acceptable to both buyer and seller. Sound financing can well mean the difference between a favorable and unfavorable experience.
The decision as to how much you can safely pay for a home and acreage is dependent on past savings, income expectations, and the proportion of this income the family is willing to give up for housing. The financing of a home and acreage usually depends upon the purchaser's monthly wage or salary, or upon some other non-farm source of income. A rule of thumb is that one should not pay more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the annual normal net expendable income for a home. To exceed these amounts means that most families do not have sufficient current income for food, clothing, education, recreation, transportation, and medical and dental care.

Few families today have sufficient savings to pay cash for the real estate, and to purchase equipment needed. Wise use of credit, coupled with family savings, is a sound route to home and property ownership. Experience indicates that a down payment of from 25 to 30 percent of the purchase price is necessary to establish reasonable security and safety. This applies to families having their main source of income from wages and salaries and purchasing a home and small acreage. Purchase of a full-time farming operation is entirely different, and requires a larger percentage of the purchase price as a down payment to provide a desirable margin of safety.

At least a small cash reserve over the down payment is desirable for protection against unexpected and unforeseen emergencies such as sickness, accidents, and injuries to members of the family, and particularly the employed members of the family.

The more rapidly the purchase prices can be paid off, the better. However, the contract period should not be too short. It is better to have a longer period of years to complete payment with the option to pay off sooner where possible. A repayment program over 20 years, with provisions in the purchase agreement for optional or extra payments on principal at any anniversary date, is safer and more desirable than a ten year payment program.

General Considerations

People interested in purchasing a country home, or a country home with an acreage to provide part of the family food requirements and part-time farming operations, might well seek advice from a number of public agencies having no interest in selling property.

The County Health Department is well informed on sanitary problems and sewage disposal and will assist in determining the quality of domestic water in wells and springs. The County Water Resources Engineer is able to supply information about flood areas and rainfall.
For information on soils, drainage, livestock, crops, and irrigation, the County Extension Office is available, as well as the technicians of the Soil Conservation Districts serving the county.

Banks, National Farm Loan Associations, the Production Credit Association, and the Federal Farmers Home Loan Administration will advise on values and financing.

**TAXATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

A report from the University of Oregon's Bureau of Municipal Research shows that property tax levies in the state have nearly quadrupled since the end of World War II. And, that the property tax provides more than twice as much revenue as the personal income tax in Oregon, and more than four times as much as the State Gasoline Tax.

Property tax levies in Douglas County are comparable to the state average. Political subdivisions within the county, rather than the county government, require the present property tax levies to carry on their programs. The county property tax levy has averaged around six mills in recent years. Monies received from timber sales on county owned lands and government managed forest lands have been used in lieu of property taxes to meet a greater portion of the annual county operating budget. Without the funds from timber sales accruing to the county, the county property tax levy would be several times the present levy. Since there is no assurance timber sales funds will continue at the level of recent years to offset property taxes, there is need to give tax problems more serious consideration without delay.

Residents of the county must look to the many tax-levying bodies in the county, rather than to the county government for a reduction in property taxes at this time. People living in the many political subdivisions of the county largely determine what property taxes must be levied and collected each year. Budgets and bonded indebtedness must be approved by a majority of the people, and be paid largely by property owners in each tax district.

There appears no easy way of reducing or holding down property taxes or other taxes. Property owners must be alert and vigilant to see that unnecessary spending of tax funds is avoided, budgets do not exceed real needs, and bonded indebtedness is kept to a minimum. This is particularly true in relation to agricultural holdings. Farmers and stockmen are faced with a cost-price squeeze that has all but eliminated a margin of profit, and property taxes are a very large part of production costs.
Recommendations

1. That property be at least partially relieved of levies to pay bonded indebtedness and interest thereon by some other form of taxation.

2. That in reappraisal of property now being carried on in the county, equalization of value on productive capacity be given greater consideration, particularly on crop, grazing, and forest lands.

3. That the Douglas County Tax League be reorganized and take a more active position in checking expenditure of county funds, examination of budgets and county programs. Similar action should be taken on budgets, expenditures, and programs of various political subdivisions in the county having authority to levy taxes.

4. That all citizens, particularly property owners, take a more active part in all matters related to or requiring tax levies, and expenditures of funds raised by taxes of any kind.

5. That the County Planning Commission be reactivated, and reasonable technical help be provided to study and recommend procedure for an orderly development in all sections of the county.

Financing the Farm

Acquisition of a farm today with a production capacity to provide, under good management, an income necessary to meet modern living standards, maintain production equipment, pay taxes, and meet debt installments, requires a sizable sum of money. Few people have sufficient savings to pay cash for such a farm and equip and stock an enterprise of this size.

Experience indicates that reasonable security and safety in purchasing a farm require a larger down payment than in purchasing a home, a small acreage, or many businesses. Uncertainty of farm income due to weather conditions, prices of farm commodities, and market outlets from year to year, requires long term financing. Loan agencies financing farm mortgages for a period of 20 to 30 years are limited in number and seldom loan over 50% of the appraised productive value of the farm.

Appraised productive value may be considerably less than the accepted market value of the farm at time of purchase. It is important that the prospective purchaser of a farm recognize the difference between market value and productive value of the farm. Productive value is...
what the land will produce in the way of crops and livestock, and the return to the operator in dollars will pay production costs, living expenses, and debt installments plus interest.

The following recommendations are made to guide the prospective purchaser of a farm in financing and management of the operation, so as to permit reasonable security and safety for the capital invested:

1. Make certain the farm has the productive capacity, under good management, to provide the income necessary to meet family needs, maintain equipment and debt obligations.

2. Determine, before purchase, if available down payment is sufficient to permit refinancing the balance of indebtedness through the National Farm Loan Association or similar mortgage lending institutions.

3. If savings and capital are not sufficient to make a down payment that provides reasonable security for funds invested, then rent or lease until such time as this is possible.

4. Keep investment in machinery and operating equipment reasonable for the farm production program. Over investing in equipment means unproductive capital investment, which can easily result in unnecessary taxes and higher depreciation losses.

5. Use pole frame construction for production buildings. Construction costs and taxes are lower, and they are as serviceable as most conventional type structures of former years.

6. Keep accurate records on production costs and income from various farm enterprises - crops and livestock. Changes in local and national market demands, price, and so forth, may require shifts in production.

7. Make full use of local and government services for factual information on land capabilities, financing, and production practices, before and after purchasing a farm.

SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Situation

The soil and water resources of Douglas County are extensive and the possibilities for development are great and challenging. It is essential that the potential of these resources be understood, and steps be taken to develop them without further delay.
Soil and water resources are capable, with development, of expanding greatly and stabilizing the income from agriculture, forests, and recreational opportunities. This will provide new industries. Few areas have the natural advantages provided by soil and water resources which are found in the Umpqua River Basin.

Douglas County has an area of 5,062 square miles or approximately 3,239,680 acres. A major portion of the area is within the Umpqua River Basin. Nearly 80% of the area is in forest land and about 17% is in farm ownership. The basin watershed extends from the top of the Cascade Range to the Pacific Ocean in an east to westwardly direction and is bordered on the south by the Rogue River Range and the Calapooya mountains on the north. The mountainous topography, the streams, and ocean provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, in a special report on the Umpqua Basin in 1956, states: "All lowland areas and stream valleys were classified as irrigable, suitable for irrigation agriculture, of which 12% (13,900 acres) were under irrigation in 1955." The report further states: "Water supply for irrigation is generally inadequate during the summer months when streamflows are low and water requirements are high."

Impoundment of water from winter run-off appears essential if irrigation of agricultural lands is to expand. It is estimated that the potential acreage for which irrigation water is now available, without storage facilities, does not exceed 20,000 acres, including land now irrigated. The Bureau reports: "For the most part, irrigable lands are located so close to the main streams that individual farm pumping plants and distribution systems, financed by the individual operation, will be more feasible than project type development."

Potential dam sites for storage of water for multiple purpose uses, including irrigation, industrial uses, recreation, and flood control, are indicated in at least five of the six subdivisions outlined in the Umpqua River Basin study. Further study to determine feasibility of the sites is to be made with the Lookingglass Creek site study scheduled for 1957.

Douglas County has set up a department to study the county's water resources and to determine precipitation on the different watersheds. It will also collect data for prevention and control of floods. The State Water Resources Board has designated Douglas County as the first area in which it will make a water resources study. The Corps of Army Engineers is now in the process of making a flood control survey of the Umpqua Basin. When these studies are complete or have progressed to a point where constructive development can be undertaken, local public action should start.
Forests of the county provided an industrial income exceeding agriculture early in the last decade. Much of the privately owned timber has been cut, particularly stands under farm ownership and on small privately-owned timber lands. Cutting was done without consideration of erosion damage to the soil, or plans for reforestation. Such forest areas, in many instances, would benefit from reforestation practices and erosion control measures.

It must be remembered that approximately 52% of the county's area is under government control—managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Harvesting operations from these lands are carried on with consideration of erosion problems, sustained yield practices, and restoring the ground cover as rapidly as possible by reforestation. These forest lands comprise much of the basin's watershed and recreational opportunities. It is important that these lands are handled and protected so as to insure the greatest possible development and protection to water resources, recreation, opportunities, and stable industrial progress.

Recommendations

Recreational opportunities provided by soil and water resources can be made to produce substantial economic and social benefits to the county's economy. Douglas County was the first county in Oregon to recognize the value of recreational facilities. A County Parks Department was established, land and facilities were acquired that have brought new wealth to the area by attracting tourists and benefited its residents financially and otherwise. The program should be continued and expanded by acquiring sites and facilities through gifts and by purchasing as available funds permit.

Specific recommendations for the protection and development of the county's soil and water resources are as follows:

Agriculture

1. That land suitable for agricultural production, crops and livestock, be maintained for agricultural production over other uses.

2. That subdivision of farms be discouraged. Farms, in general, should be larger—not smaller.

3. That additional sources of water for irrigation of irrigable lands through construction of dams and impounding reservoirs by individuals and public agencies be developed. Irrigation not only gives increased production per acre, but permits growing wider variety of crops.
4. That new crops to provide a greater cash income are needed and should be sought.

5. That greater use of soil testing and correlation of soil testing with fertilizer trials is desirable and needed. This will result in more economical production of agricultural commodities.

6. That farmers make greater use of facilities for developing conservation and production practices provided by the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Soil Bank Program, the Agricultural Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

7. That a Soil Conservation District be organized in the southern part of the county to include all the areas outside existing districts.

8. That the Soil Conservation Service take immediate steps to complete and publish the Soil Survey Report for Douglas County.

Forestry

1. That logged timber areas under farm ownership which are better suited to the production of timber than grazing, be reforested.

2. That the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management be requested to study and develop practices to minimize erosion on logged-over areas and means of eliminating debris that eventually reaches streams and causes stream bank erosion, deposits on agricultural lands, and results in other damage to private and public lands.

Recreation

1. That the county be commended on establishing a County Parks Department and development of recreational facilities attracting tourists. The committee recommends the program be expanded as sites and funds are available.

General

1. The public should stand its fair share of the cost of developing water resources for the protection of fish life, pollution abatement, minimum stream flows, recreation, and other general public benefits accruing as now provided for flood control measures.

2. Support should be given to all agencies in the study and development of flood control measures.
3. The rights of agriculture and industry should be defended in connection with establishment of minimum stream flow regulations by the State Water Resources Board.

4. Plans and means should be developed for better transportation facilities, particularly highways and roads. This will permit greatest use and development of soil and water resources.

5. The State Water Resources Board should be requested to give priority to ground water studies in the Umpqua Basin. Many of the rapidly developing urban and rural communities find the ground water often unfit or inadequate to meet domestic requirements.

FARM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Situation

Of the 3,240,000 acres in Douglas County, approximately 554,000 acres (17%) are owned by farmers. Of this amount about half (265,000 acres) is in farm woodlands. In addition, there is considerable woodland acreage, similar to farm holdings, that is owned by a number of small private non-farm owners. Furthermore, there is still other land that is probably better suited to the production of forest crops than other uses.

Commercial forest land ownership in the county is as follows:

- Federal .................... 1,509,000 acres
- Other Public ................ 168,000 acres
- Private ...................... 1,007,000 acres

2,684,000 acres (83%)

Of the $5,924,102 received for all farm products sold in 1954, $1,241,745 (21%) came from the sale of farm forest products.

Over half of the Douglas County farm operators received more income from other sources than from the sale of farm products. Many of these persons are employed in logging or other forest products industries, which in 1954 produced 1.6 billion board feet of logs. From this, it is evident that timber is an important source of income to the part-time farmer.

General Recommendations

1. The owner should decide whether he is going to manage a certain piece of land for timber or for grazing, according to which activity is more profitable or is better suited to his needs.
2. Timber should be regarded as a valuable crop - not nearly as long-termed a proposition as many have imagined, but capable of producing salable products at relatively short intervals, from Christmas trees to pole and log thinnings to the final harvest. It should be recognized that a growing stand of timber is increasing not only in volume and value itself, but is also adding steadily to the value of the land on which it grows. It is the only crop whose harvest can be delayed considerably to take advantage of a better market without any significant ill effects.

Marketing

1. Generally speaking, the owner who has his own equipment and available time can realize more profit by doing his own timber harvesting.

2. Before selling standing timber the seller should get the advice of a qualified, yet disinterested person, who can advise on the volume, quality, and value of his timber.

3. Generally, a short-term written contract having specific provisions therein is preferable. A contract which carefully considers the needs of both parties usually results in the most satisfactory job being done.

4. Different products, such as poles, piling, and logs, should be considered for best returns. Shopping around for the best opportunity, while taking into consideration log scale and grade, is advised. Wherever possible, log lengths should be marked prior to bucking to take advantage of grade and scale.

5. In selecting a contract logger, his character and logging experience should be carefully considered.

6. Consider marketing only part of the timber at one time, taking into account present needs and tax problems.

7. Don't overlook the possible values of snags, waste, and hardwoods, as markets develop, cutting only those that interfere with good trees or present certain hazards.

8. In selling standing timber to an operator who is willing to follow good forestry practices, the owner might well consider giving him first preference to buy the next cut of timber from this area, at a fair price to be agreed upon by both parties at the time of the next cut, providing the operator has completed the job to the satisfaction of the owner.
9. An operating permit from the Forest Protective Association is necessary before beginning operations.

Forest Management

1. Planting and Seeding

Plans for an additional State Forest Nursery in this county are already underway, which should relieve the present shortage of tree seedlings as soon as they are made available. During the fall or winter, plant or seed (with seed treated against rodents) marginal and eroded land to trees, as well as areas that do not re-seed naturally. Tree seed should be sown only where there is a good seedbed of friable, mineral soil having some protection from high surface temperature, as on north and east slopes or under partial shade.

On truck or cat roads, slides, gullies, and other badly eroded spots, the seeding of a cover crop such as grass may be used as a relatively quick and effective way to reduce soil movement.

2. Cutting Practices

Generally speaking, in Douglas-fir, clear cutting is recommended for old growth stands and thinning is recommended for immature second growth stands. Although most farm and ranch holdings are second growth, each situation should be evaluated and the decision made as to whether it is better or more practical to clear cut or to thin.

Wherever possible (according to the type of stand, topography, and exposure) a special effort should be made to thin rather than clear cut. It has been generally found more profitable in the long run than clear cutting since it produces faster growth, better trees, and more volume per acre over a given period of time. Only trees that are contributing the least to the stand, such as defective, deformed, or otherwise undesirable trees, should be cut. Plan to thin at 4-8 year intervals. It is better to mark the trees to be cut than to cut to a diameter limit which does not produce the best results in all stands.

Considerable erosion damage may result from careless logging methods, particularly where slopes are steep, and soil is light, sandy, or bare, and wherever heavy winter rains occur. Locate roads so that overcast and fill material doesn't get into streams. Confine grades to less than 12% and avoid long slopes wherever possible. Construct diversions ditches in roads after logging to divert water runoff to areas where soil is not exposed. For additional precautions, refer to planting and seeding.
For precommercial stands, the following practices should be considered:

Thinning to increase the growth rate of better trees by cutting, girdling, or poisoning the unwanted trees; pruning for future peelers and quality saw logs; and cutting undesirable overtopping trees to release desirable trees for future timber crops.

For commercial stands, it is advisable to:

Practice thinning in second growth timber for such products as poles, piling, and logs. This will bring about and maintain a fast growth rate prior to the final cut. Harvest mature second growth timber by methods that induce natural reseeding wherever practical, according to the type of stand and conditions present. Shelterwood, selective, block, or strip cuttings are all of this type. Where openings are to be large, as in clear cutting, cut so as to take advantage of a good seed year, if possible, to insure better reseeding.

3. Fire

Each owner should familiarize himself with the requirements of the State Forest Laws with respect to logging, sawmilling, and burning. Since each operation is an individual problem, he should contact his local forest fire officer regarding plans for disposing of slash, and obtain a burning permit, which is required during the fire season. He should also:

Work out a fire plan for this area in advance.
Maintain an adequate system of roads throughout the area.
Maintain adequate fire breaks or lines and eliminate snags and other hazards such as concentrations of slash.
*Have an adequate water supply available.
*Have sufficient tools and equipment on hand ready to fight fires.
Notify nearest fire warden at once of any fire.
Pile and burn slash away from green trees wherever practical to do so.
Lop and scatter slash wherever possible to reduce fire and erosion hazards and add organic matter to the soil.
*See law requirements.
4. Insects

Harvest standing fir timber showing signs of fading as a result of bark beetle attack and fresh down timber, wherever practical to do so, to reduce possible population build up areas of this insect. Pile and burn infested slash.

Christmas Trees

1. The production of high quality Christmas trees appears to offer good opportunities for both distant and local markets because of the considerable increase in population expected in this part of the country and because the Christmas tree has become so firmly entrenched as one of our most important national traditions. It should be carefully noted, however, that it is not a "get rich quick" proposition, as the trees require much care for best results.

2. Trees may be planted on marginal lands where normal tree growth is slow and where grass competition and moisture problems are not serious. Or they may be grown on a plantation basis, requiring soil preparation, cultivation, irrigation (if possible), and protection from human and wildlife elements. Spacing should be closer than forest plantings. Broadcast seeding of treated seed is also possible as previously described.

Douglas fir and the true firs, such as grand, white, and noble fir, are the preferred species. For drier sites, pines such lodgepole, ponderosa, Austrian, and digger pine are suggested.

3. Growers, having either wild or planted trees, should seriously attempt to produce only superior trees through Christmas tree culture, such as pruning, scarring, thinning, and shearing. Stump culture is also desirable for maximum production. Prices paid are in direct relation to quality.

4. It appears advisable for growers to unite in forming an association for the express purpose of growing quality trees for the maximum returns. Such a pool should sell by grade from a concentration point to distant markets, with contracts for trees secured in advance.

5. The part-time farmers might well consider growing Christmas trees as a sideline.

Specialties

Our farm woodlands are producing ferns, evergreen huckleberry, salal, Oregon grape, mistletoe, sphagnum moss, and fir
boughs for florists and for the Christmas tree trade. In addition, such items as cascara bark and fir pitch may be collected for medicinal purposes. Burts are also salable. Furthermore, all hardwoods are suitable for charcoal production.

Hardwoods and less valuable softwoods also offer opportunity for further utilization. Although certain of the former are difficult to season, there are numerous examples elsewhere of what good hardwood and more complete softwood utilization can bring to an area in the way of cheaper home-produced goods and a more stable economy.

These specialty woods should not be destroyed simply because their present value is low. New industries and increased manufacturing, as indicated below, could change this picture in a short time.

1. There is a great need for a pulp mill in this county in order to utilize more completely the tremendous amount of softwood that is burned or left over each year. Also, with a pulp market for bolts or small logs, 15-25 year old stands could be thinned, thus bridging the gap between Christmas trees and pole thinning. Hardwoods could also enter this picture to a lesser degree.

2. There is also a need for mills which produce pressed board or chip board from both softwood and hardwood waste.

3. There is an opportunity for more secondary manufacturing in softwoods, such as that which could produce sash and door stock, moulding, finish lumber, box shock, wedge-type heel stock, and even toys. Incense cedar whose wood is easily worked should not be overlooked in this field. This species is well-adapted to growing on rougher and drier sites, often difficult to re-establish in other species.

4. The quality of local hardwoods is equal to those in other parts of the country. Certain of these, such as red alder and maple, are well-adapted to the manufacture of furniture. Other hardwoods, such as chinquapin, might also be used in this type of manufacturing.

5. Although there are a few wood-turning industries in the county using myrtlewood, there is an opportunity for further expansion in this field. Small home type industries of this type, producing such items as dowels, handles, bobbins, spools, crutches, furniture parts, and toys from hardwoods, could provide employment during the winter months. Many of these items are, at present, imported from other regions of the country.
6. Small portable-type mills sawing oak could provide lumber, planking, and flooring stock from the better portions of the tree and cross-ties from the poorer portions. Other quality logs of oak or ash could yield ladder-round stock. Other close-grained hardwoods could produce heel stock.

7. Possibilities also appear in the hardwood veneer field. Madrone when properly seasoned is as beautiful as mahogany, while maple and cottonwood also show some promise.

Assistance Programs

ACP Cost-Sharing Government Program

Investigate Agricultural Conservation Programs payments for planting, pre-commercial thinning, pruning, release work, site preparation, cultivation, and the Soil Bank plan.

Technical Assistance

Consult the Extension Office for specific information on farm forestry and forestry demonstration areas and seek the individual assistance of the County Extension Forester on the ranch or farm woodland. For additional information on forestry, consult the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory, the State Board of Forestry, the Forest Protective Association, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

The county is well adapted by climate and soils for the production of a wide variety of horticultural crops. Production at the present time is confined largely to supplying local fresh market demands and providing a limited tonnage of pears, prunes, and snap beans to Willamette Valley canneries.

Rapid population growth on the Pacific Coast may change production areas and markets in the near future. Local growers and businessmen should not overlook an opportunity for the establishment of a cannery or frozen food processing plant in the county. Such a plant or plants would materially improve the demand for locally grown fruits and vegetables, and increase employment opportunities.

The following recommendations should be considered, with possibilities that conditions controlling markets may change rapidly and demands for locally produced horticultural commodities may be greater than anticipated in a relatively short time.
Tree Fruits

Apples

A reasonable increase in local apple production to match population growth appears desirable. Red varieties of apples are in greatest demand and some varieties of yellow apples are readily accepted by consumers. Dwarf or semi-dwarf trees appear to have promise for commercial apple production.

Pears

The Bartlett pear is considered the best-adapted variety for local conditions and market outlets, and offers opportunity for additional plants on good soil. Irrigation is desirable, but not necessary. Present production ranges from 2,000 to 3,000 tons annually.

Prunes

A limited increase in the planting of prunes appears desirable. Existing acreage is declining rapidly, now one-tenth the acreage 20 years ago. Prunes have been profitable when planted on suitable land and given good care. Italian prunes have two market outlets - canneries and dried. Dryer facilities are quite limited, but more than adequate to handle present production. New plantings should be within reasonable distance of dryer facilities. Improved type French prunes of larger sizes have possibilities south of Roseburg along the South Umpqua River basin. All recent plantings, both Italian and French type prunes, under five years of age will not exceed 100 acres.

Cherries

Commercial plantings of cherries are not recommended at this time. Rains frequently cause damage or loss of the crop. Cherries are largely a cannery crop as far as market outlet is concerned, and we have no cannery in the county.

Peaches

Present peach acreage and production are adequate to meet local market demands. Competition from outside producing areas for local market is increasing.

Nuts

Walnuts

Established orchards or groves should be retained. New plantings are questioned, as walnuts require the very best of soils, which are high in price and trees take 10 to 12 years to come into production. Intercropping appears to be the only means of holding down overhead costs until trees reach bearing age.
Filberts

Planting of filberts is not recommended. Most of the plantings have been removed in recent years. Established plants should be maintained as long as profitable.

Berries and Other Small Fruits

Berries and other small fruit production should be held in line with local market demands. Strawberry production is at this level now. Red raspberry production is about equal to local demand, but might stand slight increase in acreage. Bramble berries - boysen, nectar, logan, and blackberry production is about equal to local demand.

Truck Crops

Snap Beans

A profitable crop if cannery contracts can be secured, and adequate labor is available to assure harvesting of crop at the right time. Yields of local fields are above state average and have averaged about 10 tons per acre over a period of years. Gross returns are high, as are harvesting costs.

Cantaloup and other Melons

Acreage of these crops should be limited to demands of the local market, market outlets in Portland and other Western Oregon areas.

Ornamentals

Douglas County has a favorable climate for growing many ornamental plants, trees, and shrubs. Specialty production and holly growing have possibilities. There is less chance of freezing damage than in producing areas further north. Local labor costs are higher than in some other areas and growers must expect keen competition from producers in the Willamette Valley and the Portland area.

Bulbs and Flowers

Soils and climate are favorable. Narcissus and lily bulbs are being successfully grown and flowers marketed. Bulb market is controlled largely by importation from foreign countries and prices have been low in recent years. The flower market is nation-wide and requires organized marketing by growers to secure top market prices.

Marketing

Action should be taken to secure, as soon as possible, cold storage facilities, canneries, and frozen food plants through which to hold and market horticultural products now produced and products which can be produced in the county.
CROPS COMMITTEE

Grasshopper Control

The committee feels grasshoppers may continue to be a problem in the future. They wish to recommend that funds be set aside by the County Court to carry out a grasshopper control program by the county, if necessary. They feel that a larger sum than last year should be available in case of extreme need. Last year's program appeared to be very satisfactory, according to landowners cooperating with the county in control work.

Hay

The committee feels that Douglas County does not raise nearly all of the hay which it uses. Harvesting practices and conditions lower the quality of early cuttings, so that it does not compete favorably with imported hay. While some improvements would help, the committee does not feel that a very large part of the market could be secured. Expansion of hay raising should be mainly on the basis of filling the need on each farm.

The use of the first cutting of alfalfa for silage was suggested, where practical. Removal of grass and weeds in lotus and alfalfa also will improve the hay. Fertilizing properly will increase yields in many cases and is practical.

Lime may be beneficial on most crops on low pH soil and some demonstrations should be made to encourage the practice.

Grain

Large qualities of grain for feed are shipped into Douglas County. To compete profitably with this imported grain only fairly good land seems to yield enough. Fertilizer will help and should be used on even the better ground. Grain can be used for a cash crop in the rotation of pasture and hay ground. Some of the better soil types apparently can be grained for several years in a row without the need for rotation, if good fertilizing practices are followed. Corn has been grown in several places on a continuing basis and seems to get better each year so far. Heavy applications of fertilizer are used and a large amount of stalk is turned back under each year.

Expansion of corn acreage appears to be feasible. Yields have been high and probably can still be increased. Yields are enough higher than other grains to offset the cost of higher equipment and fertilizer costs.

Work needs to be done to determine proper fertilizer programs to be used on grain crops. The committee felt that optimum rates of fertilizer were not known and information along this line would be helpful. Variety trials also were needed and would prove helpful in some cases.
Weed control in hay, grain, and pasture crops is very important and needs emphasis. Weed Control chemicals are good when used properly. More demonstrations are needed.

Pasture

The committee feels that many areas in the county should be seeded to permanent pasture. The greatest problem is to find a method of seeding that is successful enough and economical enough to find wide adoption.

The pasture renovator demonstrated and used in the fall of 1956 appears to be very promising for establishing subclover and it is recommended that more demonstrations of this type be arranged.

Crop land that is marginal for grain production should be planted to permanent pasture crops for greatest returns.

Hill pasture nurseries and demonstrations are needed in the search for better plants both in mixtures and in varieties. The committee feels Centaurea jacea (Bemis grass) may work very satisfactorily on many of the poorer hill soils. It may be a great help for fattening lambs later in the summer.

Burnet may also offer some promise and subclover is widely adapted and can furnish a lot of feed. Soils that are too acid for good subclover production may produce Centaurea jacea or burnet satisfactorily. The economics of liming many hill soils is questioned and yield results and cost studies would answer many questions.

Timing and methods of applying fertilizer were discussed. More information is needed on timing of spring fertilizers, particularly on wet land. Members of the committee felt that much fertilizer was being wasted by being applied too early on wet land and some too late on drier land. More work is needed on use of fertilizer, the amount, and the kind that will give the best results. Yield trials are needed in this respect.

The committee feels that many pastures are over-stocked. Need for rotation is also recognized as a method of increasing yields and returns from pasture.

Soil moisture testing was discussed and appears to be a good practice. One of the committee members, who had co-operated on a trial of testing equipment, felt that it had saved considerable time and water. Irrigation practices in use in the county were discussed and the committee felt they could be improved, and that more soil moisture testing work may help to this end.
Brush Control

The committee felt there was a need for more information on brush control. Large brush patches are dotted over the county and if an economical method of control could be found, these areas could be converted to usable land. Aerial sprays and/or burning appear burning appear to be the only feasible methods of control and work is needed to find satisfactory methods of doing this.

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

The problem of national surpluses and the policy of bringing new land into production under reclamation and irrigation projects were discussed by the committee. The group feels that it is only adding to the difficulty to bring this new land into production, when present production creates a surplus. Grain support prices seem to be a limiting factor in profitable livestock production in the Douglas County area, particularly as regards swine and poultry.

Considerable discussion centered on logged-over land. The committee felt that most farmer-owned logged areas were being well handled. Privately owned logged land, not farmer-owned, appears to be the most abused and causes much of the erosion and stream siltation problem. Much discussion was centered on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service logged-over land. The group felt that a vegetative cover might be of value and felt some experimenting should be done in this regard. They also felt the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management were not necessarily right in feeling that vegetative cover and grazing were always detrimental to tree reproduction.

The committee recommends that an experiment be set up large enough to give a true answer, with the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Game Commission and State College cooperating to determine effects of seeding vegetative cover on soil erosion, tree reproduction, and forage production on logged-off land.

Sheep

Most of the discussion centered around raising sheep, as it is the major livestock industry in the county. Out of 860,000 head of sheep in the State of Oregon, Douglas County has approximately 103,000. The next highest county is Lake with 62,000.

Promotion of sale of lamb to consumers was discussed, and suggestions were made for a possible lamb cutting demonstration at the fair. The possibility of a lamb barbecue at the fair or lamb show was also discussed.
In fat lamb production, the committee feels too many feeder lambs are sold out of the county that should be fattened before marketing. The use of better sires and improved pasture should help correct this situation. More feeding-out of lambs also should be done here. Flushing is a good practice to secure a larger lamb crop and should be practiced by more sheep operators. Various methods seem to be effective, including irrigated pasture, annual summer pasture, such as sudan grass and rape, lotus fields, and even grain feeding at flushing time.

The use of sheep records was discussed. The difficulty of keeping them, which seems to discourage their use to a great extent was pointed out. The committee seemed to feel they might be helpful in increasing lamb production.

The committee felt some demonstration and experimental work should be done on fall fertilizing of pastures for winter feed.

The value and practicability of wool pooling in the county was discussed. Most of the members present felt that over the long pull it could be beneficial to the wool producers in the county. To be successful it was felt that a good job must be done, which would require some time before returns might be received by the wool producers.

**Beef**

The committee felt that the larger beef operators could benefit from a beef improvement program. They also felt that selection of better sires would improve the beef herds in the county.

While some progress has been made in recent years, there is still room for great improvement. Land that is adaptable for sheep should run sheep, but some areas because of disease, vermin trouble, and so forth, may not be adaptable for sheep but can produce cattle. The emphasis should be on quality and not quantity. Good cows are a necessity and weaning weight of the calves will indicate ability of the cows to milk. Rate of gain records on sires will give an indication of the sire's ability and should be considered where available.

**Hogs**

The outlook for hogs appears to be quite good for the immediate future. Hog production will probably continue in cycles because it is easy to get into or out of the business. Hog types are becoming more and more important on the market. Sales on off types are meeting increased resistance from packers and consumers. A limited local sale for pigs has been good and should continue to be. Overproduction would probably cause a quick decrease in prices.
DAIRY COMMITTEE

Situation

The average production per cow in Oregon for 1956 for all cows is 6,282 pounds of milk and 274 pounds of fat. Compared to this, the state average for all cows in the D.H.I.A. Program is 8,560 pounds of milk and 388 pounds of fat per cow.

Figures show that approximately 50% of the milk used in the Roseburg area is shipped in from some other area, primarily Grants Pass. Under these circumstances there appears an opportunity for expansion of the dairy industry. To be financially successful, dairymen in this area will have to be able to compete with outside areas, and to do so, they must be efficient. New production also will require large investment probably amounting to approximately $1100 to $1500 per cow for the animal, buildings, equipment, and land for a Grade A setup.

Costs in most phases of the dairy industry are increasing, and if dairymen are to maintain their standard of living, they must increase the production from their operation.

When local prices get too high, outside milk can move in very readily under modern transportation systems. Milk could move in from Idaho into the market here when prices and volume permit.

Problems

Dairymen need to increase production per cow and increase the amount of home produced feed so that costs can be reduced and net income increased. There is a need for better pasture management to produce more forage. There is a need for silage programs that will increase the volume and the quality of home produced roughage. Fertilizer, rotation and irrigation practices need to be improved and can often be a means of increasing forage.

Another problem which gives appearances of becoming more serious in the future is becoming more serious in the future is bedding for loafing areas. It is feared that as hard board type of plants increase, shavings for bedding will become more and more expensive and hard to secure. Present bedding problems can be helped by a stockpiling program during the summer months. Increased areas for loafing will also cut bedding needs somewhat. Straw may be some help although the local supply is inadequate to do the job.
There is a definite need for a testing program. State averages show a definite increase in average production from participation in a testing program. Volume of business seems to be a hindrance to the development of artificial breeding. Over a period of time it is believed artificial breeding would help the dairy industry. A good sire, whether in an association or personally owned, is a must for improvement of dairy stock.

A minimum size unit requires at least 30 cows and a larger unit would be more likely to be efficient. An operator should be able to produce at least 250,000 pounds of milk a year for each man-year of labor used. Many operators in the state are producing much more than this with good dairy setups.

One of the biggest limitations to future dairy expansion is the high investment required. The capital outlay for a Grade A Dairy is high enough to discourage many young would-be dairymen. The committee felt that between $1100 and $1500 investment was needed per cow.

**Summary**

The outlook is fairly good for the dairy industry in Douglas County. The investment needed to get into Grade A production should limit competition somewhat. Local dairymen must remember though that they are competing with other areas in the state and a very large price differential can cause a flood of outside competition. Dairymen will need to become larger and more efficient. On this basis, a minimum herd should be at least 30 cows and the dairy operation should be set up so that one man per year should produce 250,000 pounds of milk as a minimum.

Roughage and pasture programs should be improved, and breeding and testing programs will become more and more important.

Ways of becoming more efficient must be found and practiced.

**POULTRY COMMITTEE**

**Situation**

Egg production in Oregon is increasing. It has increased with the population increase in the state, but we are still on an egg-importing basis. The point is rapidly being reached where eggs may become a surplus product, and when that occurs the committee feels that egg prices will drop considerably because of the present benefit of freight charges on imports. Therefore, we do not recommend any new production.
Problems

Those presently engaged in poultry production probably will be facing more difficult times in the future. The poultryman who considers this a challenge, rather than a threat, will stand a better chance of successfully competing in the future. Because of better production through breeding and management, egg production is increasing faster than the population. This means that fewer poultrymen will be needed to supply the demands for eggs. This seems to indicate larger and fewer operations. As poultry raising becomes more specialized, it will offer less opportunity for the part-time or sideline enterprise.

The introduction of labor saving devices such as bulk feed, chain feeders, and so forth, is increasing the output per man and results in a lower profit per unit. To maintain the same income, a farmer must market a larger volume, which means a larger plant and greater capital investment.

With the advent of vertical integration, a very high percentage of all broilers are now produced under contract. This practice is rapidly extending into the egg business as packaged egg plants. While vertical integration does not exist in all areas, its effect will be felt in lower prices for products. We would like to go on record as being opposed to the indiscriminate financing as practiced by some feed companies.

There is a decided trend towards the location of poultry production in those areas which offer the greatest number of natural advantages. The importing of these products into Oregon lowers our price structure.

Recommendations

The committee believes that the Extension Service can be of assistance in helping the poultryman arrive at an intelligent decision regarding his future. Will he be able to grow with the times? If he is blocked through lack of land, water, capital, physical vitality, limited market, and so forth, it may be his wisest decision to seek other fields of endeavor.

Disease control is always a problem. Assistance with plant layouts, management, records, and their analysis will become increasingly important.

The committee also feels that better enforcement of the Oregon Egg Law would benefit both producers and consumers.
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