

1948

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM CONFERENCE

for

JACKSON COUNTY

Containing Reports of Committees  
Submitted and Adopted March 31, 1948

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## FOREWORD

The Jackson County Agricultural Program Conference of 1948 was a continuation of the planned agricultural development that has characterized the farming activities for many years. Earlier planning conferences have contributed to this development and were started in 1924 with others being held in 1936, 1938, 1941, and 1946. The end of the war brought forth the need for post-war planning and the reports of the 1948 conference are the result of the study of eight committees appointed to survey the needs and aims of their particular line of agriculture.

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

Henry Conger, General Chairman  
W. B. Tucker, County Agent and General Sec.

## REPORT OF LAND USE COMMITTEE

Jackson County has a total land area of 1,788,160 acres. Of this amount 365,202 acres are in farms. The 1945 census indicates a total of 98,077 crop acreage. Approximately 95,000 acres have been in crops annually, with small variations in crops from year to year.

The 1940 United States census reports approximately 45,300 acres as irrigated, or slightly less than one-half of the cultivated acreage. The 1945 census reports 2,936 farms, representing the average size farm as 124.4 acres. The census shows an increase in numbers of farms from 2,702 in 1940 to 2,936 in 1945. The committee believes that the numbers of farms has increased at a greater rate since 1945. Such increases in numbers of farms can be accounted for in two ways; subdivision and development of sub-marginal land.

Either of these methods are not considered economically sound if operators expect to produce a fair standard of living, pay expenses of operations and pay for the land and improvements from the agricultural income of the farm.

Agricultural land values increased 64 per cent during the period 1940 to 1945. Such land values are now estimated to be 100 per cent above the 1930 level.

### Subsistence Homesteads in Jackson County

The number of small farms (one to five acres in total area) was reported to be approximately 1,000 in 1946. This number has been greatly increased during the past two years. Owners of such subsistence homesteads are usually receiving a large part of their gross income from industrial employment in nearby areas. (Logging, sawmills, etc.) The committee recommends that prospective purchasers investigate carefully the permanence of such industrial employment prior to investing or purchasing on contract, small non-economic farms.

Operators of small subsistence and non-economic farms require more than average assistance in an attempt to maintain fair to good standards of living. The committee recommended that the Extension Service survey these small farms and determine the type of service needed to aid in improving the economic stability of these small farms.

### Water Resources

A portion of the 45,300 irrigated acres of Jackson County is not adequately supplied with sufficient irrigation water to produce and mature all crops each year. The committee recommended that every effort be made to conserve existing supplies by reducing losses in storage reservoirs, canals and laterals, the lining, silting, fluming or piping water across heavy seepage or loss areas; that farmers be urged to develop ground water sources (springs, seep holes, etc.) wherever practical; that pump sprinkling systems be installed where sources of water supplies are adequate and the lift is not excessive; and that irrigated land be leveled and prepared for irrigation so as to avoid the necessity of using excessive amounts of water per acre.

The committee further recommends that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation develop additional storage reservoirs in the Rogue River Basin so as to insure adequate irrigation water for all lands now being irrigated as well as new lands not presently served. Increased development and expansion of the agricultural resources of Jackson County are dependent largely upon the development of additional water and the conservation of present supplies.

## Size of Farm Units

The committee would recommend that the following two points be used as a guide in the determination of an economic farm unit, rather than a fixed acreage:

1. That the farm unit will provide full time employment for the operator and his family.

2. That the productive capacity of the unit is sufficient to provide an income which will insure a good standard of living and pay off indebtedness.

The committee recommends that all prospective purchasers of farm lands consult freely with successful operators in the area and with Extension agents relative to soil types and productive capacities of the land prior to purchase.

The present trends in farm prices may cause some farmers to expand their present operations. If this will provide a more economical unit it will increase farm efficiency and would be justified, provided the operator is not too much in debt at the time. Veterans and others without agricultural experience who seek to engage in farming should be advised to either secure employment on a type farm of their choice, or lease a farm prior to purchase.

## Tax Lands

There are no tax delinquent agricultural lands in Jackson County at this time. This is a fine thing and we hope this situation may continue indefinitely.

## Range Lands

The committee recommends that as rapidly as suitable grasses, and more especially legumes can be found which will maintain themselves on the range lands, the lower hills be seeded to such grasses and legumes to improve the production of forage. Many of the present grasses might be greatly improved by seeding companion leguminous plants so as to increase the available supply of nitrogen. Subterranean clover and creeping alfalfa may be satisfactory for legumes, while alta fescue, perennial rye grass, orchard grass and tall meadow oat grass are examples of some of the more promising dry land grasses.

The committee feels that the growing of small seeds is a profitable enterprise for the county, but with the limited supply of irrigation water it will be necessary to develop dry land crops for seed production, if the industry is to be expanded.

## Cut Over Lands

The forest lands of commercial timber are rapidly being harvested. This cut over land may pass to the county following the harvesting of the present crop. In such event the committee recommends that the agricultural interests support the County Court in a County and State cooperative program of reforestation.

Respectfully submitted,

H. E. Conger, Chairman  
A. E. Brockway  
Charles Elmore

Ben Day  
John Niedermeyer  
Claude Hoover

## REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

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

### Pears

#### Low Grade Fruit

With current depressed market conditions, growers are warned that there may be no market for pears below the grade of Fancy. Where part time growers hire their spraying and much of their work done, they should examine their operation carefully to be sure it will be profitable under such strict marketing conditions.

Commercial growers may also wish to consider the removal of parts of their orchards which produce low quality fruit. In all cases, uncared for trees should be removed to prevent infestation of the remainder of the orchard or neighboring orchards.

#### Replants

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

#### Grafting

Grafting of one variety to another should be done only after a lot of serious consideration. The only grafting suggested is where Bosc are scattered through a block of another variety. In these cases Bosc trees should be grafted to that variety except where they have value as pollinizers.

### Apples

There should be no additional planting of apples in this county.

### Peaches

The acreage of peaches has increased rapidly in recent years, not only in Medford but all over the United States. As the Jackson County peach acreage has doubled in the past five years, further expansion should be approached carefully. There may be some demand for freestone peaches for canning and freezing. This market outlet does not return as much as the fresh market, but unless the grower is prepared to use that outlet he should not plant.

### Plums

There is no market for local consumption so before planting, a market outlet should be assured. Wild plums have not produced good crops locally.

### Cherries

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

### Walnuts

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

### Filberts

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

### Small Fruits

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

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

### Truck Crops

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

### Housing

Since the last report, the district has acquired equipment for a transient labor camp and is now acquiring buildings and grounds. However, the lack of "on-the-ranch and orchard" housing in this county is a serious obstacle to securing enough of the better class of seasonal workers. Jackson County probably has less of these facilities than any fruit district on the Pacific coast.

It is recommended that growers provide quarters for seasonal workers in the following order of preference.

1. Cottages
2. Tents with floors and frames
3. House trailer parks

Each type will require approximately the same facilities for sanitation, water, and lights.

### Irrigation

The Irrigation Committee of the Fruit Growers League has endorsed the plans as outlined by the United States Reclamation Bureau. This action has been taken in the hope of furnishing the present water districts in this valley with additional water necessary to fulfill their obligations.

Available water resources now controlled by the water districts in this area are presently being utilized to the maximum and have definitely not generally been adequate. The fruit growers of this valley have experienced many years when insufficient irrigation has adversely affected their production. A series of dry years with insufficient irrigation water could easily seriously reduce or terminate the production of fruit in this section.

The Fruit Growers League has endorsed a water conservation program and has cooperated with the water districts in its fulfillment. These steps have been necessitated by the lack of adequate water for irrigation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ward B. Spatz, Chairman	Otto Bohnert
Dr. George B. Dean	David Lowry
Shelby Tuttle	R. W. Root
Ralph Cook	Harry Holmes

## REPORT OF SMALL FARMS COMMITTEE

Previous programs were reviewed and agreed on by the committee. Especially the recommendation that small farm operators should first produce food for the family, including meat, milk, eggs, vegetables and fruit, since in this way the farm can contribute more actual value than in any other known enterprise with the possible exception of highly specialized crops which the rank and file of small operators would not be able to grow.

After this sustenance has been provided, if labor and land are still available then the operator could grow a cash crop, either vegetables, tomatoes, sweet corn or others. Small fruits (berries or even peaches), seed crops, especially ladino clover seed. There is some possibility of growing vegetable and flower seeds.

Growers of such cash crops should investigate market possibilities and to enter into growers contracts with reputable market agencies prior to planting or seeding commercial acreages. Prospective producers are advised to confer with successful producers in their area and with Extension agents in reference to production and marketing problems.

It is recommended by the committee that small farms operators, especially those employed part time or full time, use this period of high prices and high wages to pay for the farm and equip it; also, to make improvements on the property. If this is accomplished the committee believes that the small operator will be able to ride through a rather severe depression by supplementing farm production with seasonal work off the farm.

It is recognized by the committee that small farms are of three general types:

1. Small acreage with operator employed full time off the farm,
2. Small acreage with operator employed part time off the farm but dependent on the farm for a large part of his income.
3. Small acreage from which operator takes entire income.

It is understood that location, soil type, and kind of farming will have a bearing on the size of farm needed, but for a goal to aim at, the committee agreed that not less than 20 acres of good irrigated land could be considered a practical unit for full time farming. Even this would need to be bolstered with a dairy unit, a poultry unit or some other specialized enterprise.

The wishes of the committee for service from the county agents' office include:

1. Small community meetings to discuss plans and problems of small farms.
2. A few typical farm plans to show what can be accomplished on small acreage.
3. A group of bulletins to give in language understandable to the beginner the things he should know in order to purchase and care for livestock and crops intelligently.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Wisner, Chairman  
R. D. McCarty  
G. A. Hubbell  
Mrs. G. A. Hubbell

Lloyd A. George  
George P. Gilham  
R. S. Wilds  
Cal Lusk

## REPORT OF THE CROPS COMMITTEE

Jackson County crop acres has shown very little variation for the past 25 years. The 1945 census indicates there are 98,077 acres of crop lands in the county. There has been a definite shift in kinds of crops produced on a large part of this crop acreage. At one time there were some 25,000 acres devoted to the production of wheat. The 1945 census reports 3,056 acres of winter and spring wheat. The shift in grain crops has been toward legume crops and irrigated pastures. Irrigated improved pastures have increased from approximately 50 acres in 1927 to over 16,000 acres in 1947.

The ratio of soil depleting crops to soil conserving crops now is estimated to be at 40-60 which is considered essential for maintaining soil fertility.

### Recommendations

#### Low Production Lands

It is recommended that subterranean clover and/or alta fescue or other suitable legume and grass be used for pasture and vetch mixtures for hay crops be used on low production lands, with other dry land grasses added when adaptability is established. The committee believes such low production lands are better adapted to pasture and hay crops rather than to questionable grain production.

Your committee feels that grass seed production has a future on these low producing lands as well as on the better soils of the area where special attention is given to adaptable varieties and approved cultural practices followed.

It is recommended that the Experiment Station with the cooperation of the Extension Service and individual farmers use larger areas in experimental work with grasses, legumes, cereals and pasture mixtures thought to be adaptable to this area.

#### Irrigated Small Seed Crops

The committee feels that there is ample room for small seed production increases, especially when grown as a combination of hay, pasture and seed. Ladino clover and lotus corniculatus (local strain) are the main seed crops at present.

Ladino clover seed production can justifiably be increased, as supplies are far below present demands. Blue tag certified seed should be used in all new seedings whether for pasture or seed production.

The local lotus corniculatus has proven best adapted to Jackson County lands, and growers are advised to concentrate on this proven strain. The test trials of Italian lotus corniculatus, the New York strain of broadleaf lotus, as well as Lotus Major do not appear to be adapted to this area.

Growers of these seeds are advised to secure the best seed obtainable, seed on properly prepared seed beds, and practice a definite rotation system. This practice will do much to maintain quality seed of maximum yields.

Ladino clover will give best results on grass free, well drained, irrigated soils.

Lotus plantings should be made on the heavier, wet, irrigated lands and should be seeded on a well packed seed bed. Extreme care should be exercised in the harvesting of the seed crop to reduce shattering. Lotus is one of the superior pasture and hay crops and may be successfully grown as a companion crop with Ladino clover, alta fescue, and other suitable grasses.

#### Subterranean Clover

This Mt. Barker subterranean clover has already shown its merits in this county, especially on the poorer types of soil. It has a good future both as a pasture and seed crop. Best results have been obtained when new seedings are made in the early fall (August 15) with high germination inoculated seed on well prepared packed seed beds.

The producers of seed of this variety will experience difficulty in harvesting seed, as ordinary clover seed harvest methods are not adequate. Vacuum suction harvesters and/or rotary sweepers used in combination with combine harvesters have been used successfully where soil conditions will permit.

This clover is not adapted to lands that get very wet during the winter months.

### Sugar Beets

Sugar beet seed yields have been high in Jackson county. It is recommended that a limited acreage be planted on good clean land that is easily irrigated, by operators that have time to give the proper care at the right time. This is a high income crop and is especially adapted to the smaller type farms. Prospective growers should first contact reliable seed companies for a grower's contract, and it is recommended that such contracts provide for the seed purchase price on a sliding scale based on per cent germination.

### Vegetable Seeds

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

### Alfalfa Seed

Prior to 1946 alfalfa seed yields were poor and spotty. Since that period considerable investigational studies have been made with insect pest control methods and very successful yields have been reported by growers using control methods for lygus bugs, thrip, and aphids.

Yields of from 200 to 600 pounds of seed per acre have been secured, and many growers believe successful yields may be obtained every year under this insect control method. The committee recommends further studies be made in the use of DDT and other insecticides.

### Sudan Grass

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

### Grains

The average production of small grains is being raised by the introduction of better varieties. At the present date, Federation #38 wheat, Velvon, Utah winter and Trebi barley are recommended as the better varieties.

The committee recommends that new variety trials be continued and expanded at the Southern Oregon Experiment Station. Farmers are urged to take advantage of the results of such variety trials.

### Corn

Since corn is a cultivated crop and as there is a definite need for grain for turkeys and poultry, as well as other livestock, and since there is a definite demand for ensilage crops to supply succulent feed during the dry pasture periods, the acreage devoted to corn should be maintained at about 4,000 acres annually. Hybrid varieties are recommended.

Corn is well adapted to the smaller acreages where a cultivated crop is desirable in a rotation with seed crops, pasture, etc.

### Hay Crops

It is the opinion of the committee that with our present population of livestock there is produced insufficient hay for a severe winter. Increased acreages of vetch and oat hay and increased plantings of improved legume hays such as lotus on wet lands and French alfalfa on well drained soils are recommended.

The French alfalfa that has been developed on the Southern Oregon Experiment Station should be increased by grower seed plantings on a certification basis, so that seed of this variety may be made available to local hay producers as soon as possible.



## Vetch and Oats

This hay crop should be continued in a rotation so as to produce needed hay supplies and as a soil builder to maintain fertility.

## Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds, and more especially star thistle, are becoming an increasingly difficult problem. Field demonstrations conducted throughout the county during the past year have shown that star thistle as well as most noxious weeds may be controlled by spraying with 2,4-D.

Star thistle in grain fields may be controlled by applying 3/4 to one pound of parent acid per acre without damaging the grain crop, if applied prior to the date the grain is in the boot. Many other spray materials are now available for weed control, and growers are urged to equip themselves with the proper spray equipment.

WARNING: Persons using 2,4-D and similar type weed killers are cautioned to use extreme care in application to prevent drift of spray materials to orchards, shrubs and other broadleaf plants that are susceptible to the spray materials.

Road and highway right-of-ways are a constant source of spread of noxious weeds. It is the recommendation of the committee that the County Court be urged to increase its appropriations and provide improved equipment for weed control on such roadways.

Farmers are urged to pay especial attention to weeds on their farms and engage in a control program.

## Irrigation

The present inadequate supply of irrigation water for the presently irrigated lands of the county, limits the expansion of crop acres. The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation has announced plans for increasing the supply of water to those lands now inadequately supplied and supplying full water rights for more than double the now irrigated lands of the county. The committee recommends that all agricultural and urban interests study such plans and use their interests toward this proposed development.

Respectfully submitted,

Arnold Bohnert, Chairman	Ben Day
John Niedermeyer	John Bohnert
Charles Elmore	Otto Bohnert

## REPORT OF POULTRY COMMITTEE

Poultry and turkeys were considered by the committee and reports on each are herewith submitted.

### Poultry

Statistics show that the Pacific Coast States' human population has increased approximately 39 per cent since the end of the war. The shifting of population has not yet reached a stationary point, and present trends indicate a continuing increase to this area. Poultry population has not kept pace with the increase in human population; hence, the Pacific Coast States have changed from a surplus to a deficiency producing area. Poultry products have been imported during the past two years at a constantly increasing rate.

The increased population in the Pacific Coast area is not alone responsible for the shortage of poultry products. The average consumption of eggs has risen from 200 per capita in the pre-war period to 385 per capita in 1947.

The world food demand, the greatly increased per capita consumption of poultry products, and the rapid increase of population to the Pacific Coast states would normally point toward demands for increased numbers of laying flocks.

The shortage of poultry feed supplies, particularly wheat, will no doubt be the limiting factor in maintaining present numbers or in an expanding program. Our government has indicated a definite grain conservation program and has requested establishment of conserving practices on each farm.

In view of present economic conditions, with due consideration of the necessity for conserving grain and feed supplies, and producing maximum human food, having in mind the long-time poultry program, your committee presents the following recommendations:

1. That commercial flocks should be maintained at a minimum of 2,000 units, a sideline flock of 500 hens; and that farm flocks be held to approximately 25 laying hens.
2. That established producers maintain their present size operations to the maximum of their equipment, available feed supplies, and financial possibilities.
3. That those contemplating starting a commercial enterprise study carefully and analyze present economic conditions and arrange for buildings, equipment, feed supplies, and financing before embarking on a poultry enterprise.
4. That replacements normally should be 100 per cent pullets in commercial egg producing flocks in order to secure maximum returns. However, some producers may be inclined to hold over hens and depend on early forced moult to save the cost of chick purchase and development. In general it is believed that just as much grain and mash will be consumed by such hens during such moult period as would be required to develop the chicks to the lay stage. Therefore, it is questionable whether or not a saving would be made. If pullets should be held over, only the best should be so held and rigid culling practiced throughout their lay period. In no case should pullets and year-old hens be mixed or housed together. Hold over pullets or yearling or older hens are a constant threat as disease carriers.
5. Since three rats consume a quantity of feed equal to that required by two laying hens, your committee recommends that each poultry producer practice an intensive rodent control program on those farms where these rodents are located.
6. Poultrymen agree that skimping on feed supplied laying flocks is neither economical or saving on feed supplies. Poultrymen are, therefore, urged to feed maximum quantities of well balanced feeds during the development period, moulting period, and especially during the lay period. Supplemental green feeds of grass legumes, roots or fine low fiber silage is recommended. Wet mash supplied for a twenty to thirty minute midday period is recommended for laying flocks.
7. Non-producing pullets or hens represent a liability to poultrymen; therefore, a weekly culling program is advocated.
8. Poultrymen are urged to install feed troughs and hoppers equipped with over-hang lips or flanges so as to prevent waste of feed by billing. Avoid over filling feed hoppers.
9. Increased production may be secured during short daylight periods by the use of artificial lights. A regular program arranged to provide a twelve to thirteen hour day is recommended.
10. Poultrymen producing broilers and fryers are advised to consider marketing their birds at 2½ to 3 pounds weight instead of 3 to 4 or more pounds.
11. Owners of established breeding flocks are advised to maintain such flocks but where reductions in numbers are necessary because of feed scarcity, or lack of egg markets, to cull out the less desirable birds so as to have the better birds for expansion when conditions warrant.

#### Turkeys

Oregon as well as other Pacific Coast states is rapidly approaching the point where turkeys produced in this area will be consumed in the area. Approximately 75 per cent of the northwest crop is now consumed in the area. Present indications point to a 50 per cent reduction in breeding flocks. Air transportation has made it possible to ship both eggs and poults long distances without hazards. Jackson county turkey growers have made excellent progress in breeding and producing broad breasted birds of high quality. Disease-free flocks have been developed through approved testing and culling methods.

The uncertain conditions relative to feed supplies and market prices offered for meat birds, breeding stock eggs and poults may cause a greater reduction than is desirable from the long range viewpoint.

Your committee believes new inexperienced growers should investigate all phases of turkey production and marketing prior to entering the business.

Production costs will no doubt be high until such time as supplies of feed are more plentiful and grain prices are reduced. Turkeys are now selling at relatively lower parity ratios than a majority of other agricultural commodities.

Jackson county turkey production has been pretty well stabilized at from 50,000 to 60,000 birds annually. We believe the Reguc River Valley is in a favorable situation for the production of turkeys; therefore, the following recommendations are presented:

1. That breeding flocks be maintained and that market outlets in other states for both eggs and poults be expanded.
2. That turkey growers produce more of their feed requirements such as grain, roots and green feed.
3. That breeding flocks be fed from eight to ten pounds of green feed, roots or low fiber silage per 100 birds to conserve grain.
4. That production of meat birds be maintained at near the consumption demand in the Pacific area.
5. That turkey growers eliminate the rodent rats on their farms in order to conserve grain.
6. That equipment used in feeding poults and developing birds be inspected and remodeled to eliminate field waste of grain.
7. That commercial producers purchase eggs or poults only from disease free stock.
8. That increased attention be given to sanitation, pasture or range rotation and approved good management practices.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Luy, Chairman  
Clarence Davies  
Mrs. B. A. Clark

Lee Wilson  
Roy Server  
Bill Penninger

#### REPORT OF DAIRY COMMITTEE

The production of milk in the United States shows a 3 per cent decrease from the 1940-46 period. Oregon milk and cream production shows a 4 per cent decline during this same period. Cream sales decreased 60 per cent, while whole milk sales showed a 45 per cent increase during the period.

Jackson County dairy cow population of 9,573 cows and heifers milked in 1945 increased to approximately 13,000 head in 1946, but has shown a rapid decline in 1947. It is estimated that there are approximately 11,000 head in the county at this time.

The average size of dairy herds is increasing to more nearly fit into a labor unit size. Many of the small uneconomic units have been disposed of and the operator has enlarged on other agricultural enterprises. The stable dairyman with high producing herds and adequate equipment is tending to enlarge his operations.

There are many good foundation breeding stock in the county. However, in general the class of stock has shown very little improvement during the past few years. Too little attention has been given to proven bulls for herd sires, with the greater emphasis having been placed on beef type bulls for producing beef type calves. Frequently these cross bred heifer calves have either been retained in the owner's herd or sold through auction yards to others for replacement.

There is still room for improvement through introduction of improved breeding stock, a well developed breeding program, using proven sires and accompanied by a disease eradication program.

### Recommendations

#### Size of Herd

Dairying should not be carried on as a side-line enterprise. The committee feels that a minimum herd of ten high producing cows is essential for an economic unit. Larger herds should be planned for those operators who have facilities, land for pasture, hay production, labor and finances to justify the operation.

#### Feed Supplies

Good irrigated pastures are essential to economical production. Many dairy operations are restricted in size of herds by the lack of pastures that will provide ample forage throughout the pasture season. The herd size should be regulated to the amount of pasture forage available at the low pasture period rather than the number of cows and young stock such pastures will carry at the peak of the pasture period. Surplus pasture crops available during the peak periods can well be converted into hay or grass silage.

Your committee suggests that every dairyman give serious consideration to the production of grass silage. Frequently greater tonnage of grass silage can be produced on Jackson county lands than corn or other grain silage crops. Feed tests show that properly prepared grass silage has a higher value for dairy cows.

The dairyman having adequate silo storage can easily convert what would be improperly cured hay into a good quality silage crop, thus saving his crop. The type and size of silo will depend on size of herd and ground topography. The trench silo, where possible to construct, is more economical from construction cost, machinery required and labor to operate. The operator will have a choice of metal, concrete, block or wood construction in the upright silo.

#### Breeding

Artificial insemination has been practiced a sufficient length of time to prove its efficiency in increasing production in dairy cattle. Some associations have increased fat 47 pounds per cow in the first generation. One state association reports 50 per cent of the bulls used produced calves that when in production showed definite increases of fat over their dams.

Oregon organized and has operated a state association for the past five years. The services of these proven and superior type bulls are available to dairymen through county or district affiliated associations. Since the bulls are superior to those usually available to the average dairyman and at a recognized lesser cost over private ownership, the committee recommends that local dairymen give serious consideration to this program.

#### Testing

The Jackson County Dairy Herd Improvement Association was reorganized in January 1948. Some six hundred cows are now being tested monthly. This represents only about 5 per cent of the producing cows of the county. Regular monthly testing and recording production has proven the most satisfactory method of determining the real value of the dairy cow.

The committee recommends that dairymen continue to enlarge the present association or arrange for regular testing of all dairy cows in the county. Low producing cows that do not pay a profit over feed costs and labor should be disposed of for meat purposes.

#### Disease Control

The dairyman is constantly confronted with disease problems. Chief among the dairy cattle diseases are brucellosis (Bang's), and tuberculosis. Oregon has ample laws covering the control and eradication of these transmittable diseases. However, either the enforcement is lax or the general public is not supporting such regulations. Disease control is first an individual owner's problem. The practice of testing to determine the presence of the disease, then the disposal of affected stock to other producers can not be considered as a method of either control or eradication.

Records show that all of the above diseases are showing increases or a spread throughout the areas since testing slowed up during the war period. High prices being paid for dairy cattle have caused increased movement of stock from county to county as well as within the county boundaries and is an important factor in the spread of disease.

The committee recommends that every owner of dairy cattle practice a disease eradication program on his own farm and discourage the transfer of infected stock by disposal for immediate slaughter. Owners are also urged to cooperate in the existing state regulations pertaining to the introduction and transportation of stock in the county.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Birdseye, Chairman  
Albert Straus  
Jewell Lowe  
C. C. Leaf  
Hjalmer Westerburg

J. W. Bigham  
Lewis Clark  
Robert Mincar  
Eugene Moore  
Harvey Stanley

#### REPORT OF JACKSON COUNTY LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Beef cattle, sheep and swine have been considered in this report.

The beef cattle industry expanded during the period 1935 to 1945 and is estimated to represent 38 per cent of the animal industry of the county. The commercial beef industry has declined approximately 30 per cent during the past three years due primarily to decreased range feed supplies. Purebred breeding stock has increased approximately 100 per cent during this same period. The numbers of both sheep and hogs declined during this period.

The committee feels that range sheep and cattle numbers can be increased in proportion to range improvement. In the event the range lands are not improved so as to produce greater carrying capacities than cattle and sheep numbers will probably remain at about present levels.

Registered breeding herds of both beef cattle and sheep may continue to increase on the irrigated farm lands of the county.

The proposed development for increased storage of irrigation water supplies for presently irrigated lands and new lands to be irrigated would make possible a 100 per cent increase in numbers of beef cattle and sheep in the county.

The swine population decreased some 70 per cent since 1943 due primarily to the narrow ratio between the price of pork and grain. With a wider spread between pork and grain prices, the swine population is now tending toward increased numbers of swine.

#### Recommendations

Raising beef cattle is a business in itself and should not be considered as a sideline enterprise. The system of keeping beef cattle on the home ranch during the winter months and running them on the public lands or range areas during the summer grazing season is ideal so long as sufficient feed is available and losses can be held to a minimum. Some success can be had by using irrigated pastures for summer pasture although costs are usually greater.

#### Breeding

The committee feels that the increased numbers of registered herds of beef cattle in the county will aid in producing a better industry. There is room for expansion of this phase of the beef production program.

Good bulls improve the calf crop by producing calves worth at least \$30.00 per head over cull bull calves. The introduction of good breeding stock locally as well as through local sales or auctions in the area is a good method of introducing improved stock and should be encouraged by all livestock interests.

### Range and Pasture Management

#### Drift Fences

Many ranges would have better control over cattle if drift fences were constructed and cattle guards erected at places where stock may move off designated range. Such fence and cattle guards would tend to reduce strays and losses.

#### Grass Seeding

Natural grasses have been depleted from many of the previously good grazing areas through the cutting of timber and accompanying logging operations. A unified reseeding of desirable, adapted grasses would greatly improve the range areas.

The introduction of a greater number of legume grasses on the range area will improve the grasses now growing on the range by supplying more nitrogen. The committee recommends that stockmen cooperate with the Experiment station of the agricultural college, Grazing Service and U.S. Forest Service in an effort to determine the best kinds of grasses to use in reseeding the low early spring grazing areas as well as the higher summer grazing areas.

#### Weed Eradication and Control

Certain poisonous plants cause heavy annual losses of cattle and sheep. Hemlock, larkspur, lupin and death camas are examples.

The committee recommends that these infested areas be located and a program be started toward eradication.

### Disease and Parasite Control

Stockmen are paying heavy penalties each year in cattle losses, slow gain, infected carcasses or small calf crops because of disease or parasites.

#### Disease

Blackleg - is a preventable disease and the uniform vaccination of all calves is recommended.

Brucellosis (Bang's Disease) - of cattle cause low calf crops and shy breeders or sterility. The stockman should keep informed and practice the approved methods of testing and control measures.

Tuberculosis - Records show that Jackson county cattle are relatively free of tuberculosis. This has caused a reduction in the number and frequency of tests. Slaughter records and veterinarians report the disease increasing during the past five years. Annual testing is recommended for free herds and more frequent tests that show suspects or reacting animals in a herd.

#### Parasites

Liverflukes - some sections of the county are badly infested with snails which are the intermediate host for the liver fluke. Stockmen are losing \$5.00 per head or more when producing stock infected with this parasite. The snails may be controlled or eradicated by careful management and stockmen will usually secure benefits in one year that equals the cost of snail eradication. Saleable livers, increased gain in eight, absence of red water and generally improved stock are the rewards for snail eradication on infested pastures, waterholes and wet lands.

The charting of county areas where snails are prevalent is suggested and if the survey shows the wide-spread infestation reported, then a county-wide campaign should be launched to eradicate the places of infestation.

Ox Warbles - two species of ox warbles are known to be in Oregon. These parasites (heel flies) cause high losses to stockmen in lower priced carcasses and hides. A hide having five grub holes is classified as No. 2 and those with greater numbers are usually considered as unsatisfactory for tanning.

Applications of rotenone as a spray or dust to the backs of infected animals will provide control. Coordinated county-wide control practices would soon eradicate these parasites from the area.

Lice - many cattle herds are infected with lice during fall and winter feeding periods. General practices of spraying or dipping infected stock will control the pests and pay premiums to the operators in more thrifty stock at reduced feed costs. DDT or rotenone with wettable sulfur is recommended for either spray or dipping applications for control of cattle lice.

### Sheep

The sheep population reached an all time low during the 1940-46 period. This resulted from:

1. Decreased range available for sheep
2. Shortage of labor to handle range lands
3. Low wool prices

The increase of range sheep will depend largely on the improvement to the spring and summer grazing areas. As wool prices are improving, experienced labor is more plentiful and mutton and lamb prices show increases.

There is room for expansion of the farm raised purebred as well as commercial flocks. It is recommended that sheep owners practice spraying or dipping all sheep for the control of external parasites.

### Swine

Swine can well be increased whenever the spread between grain and pork is sufficiently wide to make the enterprise profitable.

### Transportation

Some county roads or sections of roads are narrow. Other roads have obstructions erected near the traveled section thus presenting a real hazard for stock trucks and trailers.

The committee recommends that the narrow road sections be improved wherever possible and that cream and milk loading stands or platforms be set back as far as practical with gravel placed so as to enable milk trucks to pick up the cans without danger of getting stuck.

This should be considered a cooperative project with stockmen, dairymen, general farmers and county road maintenance crews working toward greater safety on the roads and highways.

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. Hoover, chairman  
Claus Charley  
Vern Brophy

J. W. Bigham  
Herb Carlton  
Glenn Smith

## REPORT OF FARM HOME AND RURAL LIFE COMMITTEE

After reviewing the original Farm Home and Rural Life Committee report of February 5, 1946, and January 30, 1947, the committee submits the following recommendations for consideration in planning for better family living in Jackson County homes. The committee has taken into consideration the over-all need of the family and community in making this report and suggests that some of the recommendations could best be carried out by community organizations, churches, and granges. Many are adaptable to the program of home extension unit groups or other study groups, and some are suggestions to individuals for improving their own home life.

### Housing

In light of the present shortage in housing and general interest in building and remodeling, the committee recommends that home owners, real estate men, contractors, and building supply dealers should be acquainted with the material that is available on housing through the OSC Extension Service. This might include help on how to use such material. In order that individuals in all communities might take advantage of this housing aid, it is recommended that every community, through grange, home extension, or other organizations, have project leaders who have been trained in the use of this material. They in turn might pass on the ideas to individuals who are doing a building program.

In line with the housing program, it is most important that all individuals be acquainted with the safety features of building, such as wiring, stairways, chimneys, etc. and the local building codes, to make for better, safer housing.

Home lighting is a phase of the housing project that needs more definite study, emphasis being placed on adequate light and renovation of the present lighting facilities to meet the family's needs.

In connection with house planning, more emphasis should be placed on proper working surface heights for the various household tasks and special care taken in the planning of the home to fit the individual's needs and requirements.

### Home Management and House Furnishings

The committee feels that many of the present building programs are not based on sound financial planning and recommends meetings that will help the home owner to answer the question, "Am I getting my money's worth?"

With equipment now being more readily available on the market and new equipment coming on the market, the committee feels that it is important that consideration be given to the buying, care, and repair of household equipment, such as washing machines, ranges, refrigerators, home freezing units, etc.

Oregon's new community property law is a problem that many families do not understand thoroughly. This phase should be studied in relation to the family's financial plan.

### Landscaping

Much work needs to be done in planning the landscaping of home grounds. A basic landscape meeting has been held this year, but more help needs to be available to the very inexperienced person, followed by a program on identification and planting of perennials.

### Foods and Nutrition

The committee reports that the school lunch program should be given special study in all communities by home extension units, parent-teacher groups, and all parents. It seems obvious that federal government aid in this project will become less in the future and that the community needs to investigate their present school lunch program and encourage a greater knowledge of its value among all parents, to assure a continuation of this program as a community project whether or not government aid continues to be available in the future.



With greater interest in home freezer lockers, the committee recommends presentation of material on the use of ready prepared meals for freezer lockers and complete study by the individual homemaker the cost of home freezer lockers.

The nutrition program in Jackson County has been rather well developed, but there is still need to encourage adoption of more good nutrition practices in the average home, with relationship of nutrition and disease, including characteristics of healthy children and the effect of diet on health.

The committee recommends support of the National Food For Freedom campaign, with increased home gardening and food preservation.

#### Clothing

Reports indicate that clothing costs will remain high, particularly in the field of ready made garments. More yardage material will be available, and the homemaker will find a considerable savings in home construction of children's clothing as well as her own. In light of this situation, the committee recommends that special emphasis be placed on clothing construction problems.

Labeling in clothing is becoming more and more important with the use of synthetic materials and combinations of these with the natural fibres. A consumer education program should be conducted to encourage greater attention to labeling.

#### Community and Family Life

The committee feels there is a definite need for a program in family life, but as far as the Extension Service is concerned there is no specialist available, and suggests participation in P.T.A. and health unit programs.

#### 4-H Club

Home economics club work enrollment was increased more than 100 per cent during 1947. The committee recommends that home extension unit groups and other community organizations could assist in the promotion of 4-H Club work by:

1. Sponsoring 4-H Club work in the community.
2. Arranging with 4-H Club agent to supply leaders for clubs in the community. (This is particularly needed.)
3. Working with local 4-H leaders to assist them by making personal contacts with 4-H parents to help them understand their part in the child's project.
4. If the group decides to sponsor 4-H Clubs or make awards, please notify the 4-H Club agent well in advance and consult with him concerning the nature of the award.

The home economics fair will be held in June this year in connection with the lamb show. The committee recommends that a special training section for 4-H Club chairmen of the units be included at Officers' Training meeting and that a planned training program for 4-H Club leaders be organized next year, so that they may receive specific help in the subject matter where it is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Arnold Bohnert, chairman  
Mrs. B. A. Clark  
Mrs. David Blair  
Mrs. Walter Hash  
Mrs. Cleo Gilchrist  
Mrs. Leland Charley  
Miss Claire Hanley  
Mrs. Andrew Stevens  
Mrs. Lee Port  
Mrs. Jason Ottinger  
Mrs. J. R. McCracken