

MAY 22 1957

**1956 Report of the
Linn County, Oregon**

Farm and Home Outlook Conference

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**Containing Committee Reports
Approved by Conference Held in
Albany, Oregon, March 1956**

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FOREWORD

In this age of rapid changes it is well to pause once in awhile and take stock of what one has, what he is doing and what should be done. The same principle applies to agriculture and home life of Linn County, Oregon.

Since 1936, it has been the policy of the Extension Service of Oregon State College to organize and conduct 10 year outlook conferences in cooperation with the county agricultural planning council. Such conferences have been held in 1936, 1946 and 1956 to take a good look at the county's agriculture and home life and make appropriate recommendations.

This booklet contains the reports that were developed by many local citizens after several months study. The reports point out the situation, problems and opportunities. Guides for the action of organizations and individuals interested in local improvement are also given.

All information given in this booklet was presented at an all-day meeting held in Albany, Oregon on March 29, 1956. At the conclusion of the conference, a special committee was appointed to publish the reports so they would have wide distribution. Members of this committee are Vernon Woods, Harrisburg; Fred Enos, Brownsville; Wallace Wodtli, Sweet Home; Mrs. Jess Peterson, Lebanon; and Duane Drushella, Scio. We wish to thank this group and the advertisers for making the publication of these reports possible.

If additional copies are needed, they can be obtained from the local County Extension Service office in Albany.

Merle Manning, General Chairman
O. E. Mikesell, County Extension Agent
and General Secretary

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Persons serving on committees and who attend one or more meetings are as follows:

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(City Recreation Dept.)
Ken Jury, Albany (Boy Scouts)
Mrs. Eden Wallace, Corvallis
(Camp Fire Girls)

Miss Marjorie Johnson, Salem
(Girl Scouts)
Wm. Dolmyer, Albany
H. Joe Myers, Albany
(County Extension Agent)

THIS IS LINN COUNTY, OREGON

EARLY HISTORY

When the first white man entered Linn county it is recorded that the tall mountains were covered with forests and the grass grew shoulder high on the low areas and foothills. All kinds of wild game and fish abounded, supporting large numbers of Indians of the Calapooia tribe. The Indians, and later the settlers, lived in the foothills and on the "Albany Prairie" because of poor drainage on the valley floor.

Representatives of Astor's Pacific Fur Company were believed to be the first white men in the county—first Donald M'Kenzie in 1812, followed shortly by Duncan M'Dougall. The first white settler was Jesse Looney, who squatted near the foot of Knox Butte in 1843. A year later John Packwood was the first to locate a claim and build a cabin, soon selling his holdings to John J. Crabtree. Other early Linn county settlers included John Killin, Abner Hackelman, Hiram Sneed, Isaac Hutchen, Jason Wheeler, Anderson Cox, Milton Hale, and T. A. Riggs.

The Provisional Legislature created Linn county on December 28, 1847. It was quite a county—bigger than the entire state is now! It comprised all of the original Champoolah District lands, roughly from the Santiam River south to what is now the California line and from the Willamette River on the west to the Rocky Mountains on the east. Present boundaries were established in 1854.

The county was named for Lewis Fields Linn, Senator from Missouri, author of the Donation Land Claim law of 1850. This law granted 320 acres of land to white citizens over 18 residing in Oregon before December 1, 1850, with an additional 320 acres to their wives. For the next 3 years the law allowed half this acreage with a further extension to December 1, 1855. These land claims still account for many of today's farm boundary lines.

Albany was officially made the county seat in 1851 by the Provisional Government of Oregon. The first courthouse was built in 1853. Other early towns were Syracuse, founded in 1846 by Milton Hale, about 3 miles downstream from the present site of Jefferson, and Calapooia, renamed Brownsville in 1853. Syracuse was swept away by the great flood of 1861.

The county changed rapidly with the coming of the settlers. The first flourmill in the county was built by R. C. Finley in 1849, the first sawmill by William T. Templeton in 1850. The oldest Presbyterian congregation organized on the Pacific Coast was started that year in Oakville by the Rev. T. S. Kendall and is still active. The first steamboat arrived in Albany in 1851, a form of transportation that flourished for many years.

Most transportation was by horse and wagon. Although several stage companies operated in Oregon in the early 1850's, few served Linn county. The Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road, a toll road, was completed in 1868, linking Western and Eastern Oregon just as Highway 20 does today. The first telegraph served Linn county in 1854, but wasn't really successful until 1864. The county's first newspaper, the Oregon Democrat, published by Delazan Smith and Jesse Shepherd, appeared in 1859. The Oregon and California railroad crossed the Santiam River into the county late in 1870. The first train from San Francisco to Portland went through Albany in 1887, the year the road was sold to the Southern Pacific Company. Telephone service arrived in 1878 and electricity 10 years later.

The first Linn county crops were livestock, because of the abundance of grass. The county held an agricultural fair in Albany just 100 years ago, in October 1856. Soon the area was producing wheat, oats, barley, and vegetables. As early as 1890 the county produced 1,116,000 bushels of wheat, compared to 250,000 bushels today.

SIZE AND LOCATION

Linn county has an area of 1,468,160 acres, 509,899 acres in farms. Privately owned lands total 964,874 acres. There are 503,286 acres of public lands. The county ranks 14th among Oregon's 36 counties in size, but ranks second in the number of cropland acres. The county is located in the fertile Willamette Valley approxi-

mately 75 miles south of Portland and 60 miles from the Pacific Ocean. It is only 25 miles to the State Capitol, Salem.

TOPOGRAPHY

Elevations range from 210 feet above sea level at Albany to 10,523 feet at the peak of Mt. Jefferson in the Cascade Mountains of the eastern part of the county. Approximately one-third of the county is rather flat or gently rolling. The rest is mountainous and covered with timber, mostly Douglas-fir.

The county is bounded on the West by the Willamette River, and on the north by the Santiam and North Santiam Rivers. Originating and running through the county are the South Santiam River and the Calapooia River, and Thomas Creek, Crabtree Creek, Beaver Creek, Muddy Creeks, and numerous smaller streams.

Linn county has six distinct soil associations: Chehalis-Newberg; Willamette; Dayton; Amity; Holcomb; Clackamas and Courtney; and Aiken and Olympic.

The Chehalis-Newberg soil association. These soils occur all along the Willamette River, the North and South Santiam Rivers, and the Santiam River, and to some extent along the Calapooia River, Crabtree Creek and Thomas Creek. For the most part these soils are adapted to the production of all crops, but are primarily devoted to the production of peppermint, vegetables, tree fruits and nuts, and berries.

The Willamette soil association. There is one large area of Willamette soils along the drainageway of Muddy Creek, and also along the Albany-Lebanon highway. This association is adapted to all field crops grown in the area and could produce vegetable and horticulture crops.

The Dayton soils. There are large areas of Dayton (white land) soils from Albany south to the Lane county line. There are generally small ridges of Willamette soils where drainage is not a serious problem throughout this area. This area includes some rather large bodies of Wapato, dark colored phase Dayton, and Dayton silty clay loam. It is this association that produces the major part of the county's common ryegrass, perennial ryegrass, Alta fescue and sudan grass seed, and spring oats.

Amity soils. There are large areas of Amity soil along the Calapooia River and south of Albany to the Lane county line. The Amity soils are usually intermingled with the Willamette and Dayton soils. The Amity soils range adaptability depends a great deal on drainage. If good drainage is present, the soil will produce practically the same crops as will Willamette.

Holcomb, Clackamas, and Courtney Clay loam association. There are some rather extensive areas of this association east of Albany toward Scio. Drainage is a need of this association as is a general fertility program. Production is somewhat limited because of these two factors.

Aiken and Olympic. Large areas of these soils are located in the hill sections of the county around Scio, Lacomb, and Sweet Home. These soils have a wide range of adaptability, but vary widely in depth. Chief crops being produced on these soils at present are wheat and oats, highland bentgrass, chewings fescue, and blackcap raspberries.

CLIMATE

The normal annual temperature at Albany is 52.8°F., which is about the same as Dayton, Ohio. The normal temperature for January is 39.4°, about the same as Fort Smith, Arkansas. For July it is 66.8°—about the same as Northern Michigan. The coldest on record was 15° below zero on December 13, 1919. In the past 71 years the temperature has been below zero 9 times and five of these below-zero readings occurred in 1919.

Since 1915, the county has had 15 summers when temperatures got up to 100°

or over. The hottest on record was 104° registered once in 1926 and again in 1938. The last time the temperature was up to 100° was on July 2, 1942.

The average date of the last killing frost in the Spring is March 30, and of the first killing frost in the Fall is November 6. This gives the major portion of the county an average growing season of 221 days.

Average annual rainfall is 39.39 inches, with 30.75 inches coming between September 1 and March 15. The greatest amount of rain in any one month was in December of 1917 when it rained 13.84 inches. In the past 41 years there have been 16 months with no rain.

During the past 41 years there has been no snow at all on the valley floor during 9 winters. The most snow on the ground at any one time at Albany was about three feet in December of 1919. It is unusual when snow will stay on the ground more than one or two days.

TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

Linn county is served by two railroads, the Southern Pacific and the Oregon Electric. Practically all parts of the county are served by one or more of these lines. Albany is a division point for branch lines.

Pacific Highway 99E runs from north to south through the county and Highway 20 runs from east to west through the county. In addition there are Oregon secondary highways and Linn county maintains an excellent system of oiled and gravelled roads. There is no winter problem of not being able to travel because of road conditions. Auto freight lines use these highways and roads in serving practically all parts of the county.

Telephone service is supplied to all parts of the county by several companies. Of the 3,196 farms in the county, 2,342 or 73.2 per cent have telephones.

Radio stations are in operation at Albany and Lebanon and coverage is also given the county from Corvallis, Eugene, Salem, Portland, and many other points. The Albany station was established in 1941 and the Lebanon station in 1950.

Television is received from Portland and Eugene. In 1954, 935 farms reported they had sets. Five channels can be received.

The county has one daily newspaper in Albany and weeklies are published at Albany, Lebanon, Scio, Mill City, Sweet Home, Harrisburg, Brownsville, and Halsey.

Electricity is serving practically every part of the county. Distributors are Pacific Power and Light and Consumers Power, a cooperative. All but 128 farms in the county are served with electricity.

AGRICULTURE

The county has 280,000 acres of cropland and produces more than 70 different agricultural products. The county is Oregon's leading seed producing county. Principal seed crops are common ryegrass, perennial ryegrass, Alta fescue, chewings fescue, Highland bentgrass, vetches, Austrian peas, and the clovers. Main grains are oats, barley, wheat, and corn. There are extensive acreages of vegetables, berries, nuts, fruit, and peppermint. Livestock and poultry are also important with dairy, sheep, beef, chickens, and turkeys leading the way.

There are more than 70 commercial and farmer owned seed cleaning plants operating in the county. At least four major seed companies are located in the county. Two meat packing plants, one poultry processing plant, two berry and vegetable freezing plants, and one milk condensary are located in Albany. There is a woolen mill at Harrisburg. Lebanon has a nut packing plant and a strawberry freezing plant. In addition, similar markets are available in at least three neighboring counties.

Good service to farmers is provided by the county's machinery dealers and other retail stores. Albany and Lebanon are the principal shopping centers.

The value of farm marketing in the county for the past three years is shown in the accompanying table:

VALUE OF FARM MARKETING — LINN COUNTY 1953-55

Products	Year 1953	Year 1954	Year 1955
Meat animals and wool	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 1,800,000
Dairy products	2,900,000	3,100,000	2,850,000
Poultry and poultry products	2,200,000	1,591,000	1,670,000
Misc. animal products	60,000	55,000	50,000
Grain and hay	2,500,000	1,600,000	1,800,000
Seed crops	5,000,000	6,700,000	4,355,000
Specialty field and drug crops	850,000	800,000	950,000
Tree fruits and nuts	460,000	450,000	500,000
Small fruit crops	850,000	840,000	850,000
Truck crops	1,200,000	950,000	900,000
Horticulture specialty crops	50,000	45,000	40,000
Farm Forestry products	950,000	800,000	850,000
Total	\$18,820,000	\$18,831,000	\$16,615,000

According to the 1954 census of agriculture, the county has 3,196 farms, with an average size of 159.5 acres per farm. Commercial farms number 1,828, as compared to 1,943 in 1950. There are 2,306 full owners, 562 part owners, 6 managers, and 322 tenants. The average value of land and buildings per farm is \$23,130.00.

The last census reveals that of the 1,828 commercial farms, 250 farms had sales of more than \$25,000; 405 farms had sales of from \$10,000 to \$24,999; 328 farms had sales of from \$5,000 to \$9,999; 380 farms had sales of from \$2,500 to \$4,999; 360 farms had sales of from \$1,200 to \$2,499; and 105 farms had sales of from \$250 to \$1,199.

By type of farm, the general farm leads the way with 797. Other leading types are dairy 285, other livestock 228, poultry 135, vegetables 96, cash grain 90, fruit and nut 65, and other field crops 21. There are 1,386 miscellaneous and unclassified farms.

Linn county is served by several farm groups other than regular farm organizations. Among these are the Linn County Livestock Association, the Linn County Hereford Association, the Linn County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, the Linn County Dairymen's Association, and the Linn County Turkey Growers Association. Joint groups with Benton county are the Linn-Benton Dairy Breeders Association, the Linn-Benton Jersey Cattle Club, the Linn-Benton Holstein Association, and the Linn-Benton Guernsey Association.

INDUSTRY

Outside of agriculture, practically all of the county's industry is based on timber. At the present time, there are 46 sawmills operating in the county. Plywood mills are operating at Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home, Griggs, and Lyons. There is a custom manufacturing plant at Lebanon for pre-cut plywood parts for manufacture. Paper mills are located at Albany and Lebanon. Hardboard plants are in operation at Lebanon and Sweet Home and one is being constructed at Brownsville. There is a furniture factory in Albany. Payrolls from the forest products industries in the county are estimated at 26 million dollars annually.

Other industries receiving wide interest at present are Titanium and Zirconium manufacturing plants in Albany. These plants manufacture the metal from processes developed by the U. S. Bureau of Mines plant in Albany. A number of small metal fabrication plants are located in Albany, Lebanon and Sweet Home.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to employment from agricultural, lumbering and the industries already mentioned, employment is given in all the services necessary to serve a county of 60,120 population. Excellent opportunities are given women and children for seasonal employment in the berry, vegetable, fruit, nut, and peppermint enterprises. There is also seasonal employment in these same enterprises for man. The demand for seasonal labor starts in March with peppermint planting and usually ends in October with the nut harvest. The biggest demand for labor is during the months of July and August with cane, berry and bean picking.

Population

Linn county population has about doubled since 1940. Census figures give the population in 1940 as 30,485, while in 1950 it was 54,317. The State Board of Health estimates the 1955 population at 60,120, while another estimate foresees a population of 95,000 by 1975.

This increase in population has come primarily in urban and rural non-farm as shown by the accompanying table:

Population Distribution in Linn County

Year	Urban		Rural non-farm		Rural farm		Total	
	No. persons	Per cent of total	No. persons	Per cent of total	No. persons	Per cent of total	No. persons	Per cent of total
1940	8,385	27.5	7,985	26.2	14,115	46.3	30,485	100
1950	19,608	36.1	21,782	40.1	12,927	23.8	54,317	100
*1954	24,591	41.0	22,782	37.8	12,747	21.2	60,120	100

*Estimated

Linn county residents are young in years. Two out of three are under twenty. Here is the breakdown:

Linn County Population by Age — — 1950 Census

Age group	Number of persons	Per cent of total
0 to 19 years	37,548	69.00
20 to 39 years	5,645	10.38
40 to 59 years	5,283	9.87
60 to 84 years	5,630	10.36
85 years and over	211	.39
Total	54,317	100.00

There are nine incorporated towns in the county. A majority of them have shown marked growth during recent years.

Population Growth of Linn County Towns

Town	1930 population	1940 population	1950 population	1956 population*
Albany	5,325	5,654	10,115	14,091
Lebanon	1,851	2,729	5,873	6,540
Sweet Home	189	1,090	3,603	4,050
Brownsville	746	784	1,175	
Scio	258	351	448	
Harrisburg	575	622	862	
Halsey	300	305	388	
Sodaville	77	99	157	
Waterloo			180	

*Estimated

Education

There are 60 public school district in the county. Of these, 4 are suspended; 5 are union high schools. This leaves 51 active grade schools. There are 10 high schools operating within the county. In addition, through various arrangements, Linn county students regularly attend 3 out-of-county high schools.

In addition to public schools, there are 2 parochial grade schools, 2 Seventh Day Adventist grade schools, and 1 "Christian Day School."

All of the high schools conduct tuition-type night courses. The variety of subjects offered is limited only by the securing of trained instructors and sufficient students to warrant the course. In addition, numerous college-level courses are offered through the Genral Extension Division of the System of Higher Education. These courses usually call on personnel from the State System of Higher Education as instructors. Here again subjects offered depend upon securing a minimum number of students.

None of the school districts operate kindergarten facilities. Albany, Lebanon, and Sweet Home each have one or more privately operated kindergartens. However, they are not adequate to meet the demand.

Public libraries are operated, in cooperation with the State Library, in Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home, Halsey, and Harrisburg. There are no county-wide library or bookmobile facilities.

Churches

Catholic and protestant churches are situated throughout the county. There are more than 30 protestant denominations represented by one or more congregations.

Youth Organizations

The youth of the county have an opportunity for membership in the following nation-wide organizations: Camp Fire Girls, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and 4-H Clubs.

The Boy Scouts and 4-H clubs have their organizational headquarters in Albany, while the Camp Fire Girls is in Corvallis and the Girl Scouts in Salem.

Four of the high schools—Albany, Scio, Harrisburg, and Shedd—offer FFA to their students. FHA is available in Albany, Scio, Brownsville, Harrisburg. However, all high schools have home economics departments.

Other organizations available include numerous fraternal groups such as Rainbow, DeMolay, and Theta Rho.

Recreation Facilities

Under the direction of the State Forester in Linn county are one camp for organizations and three overnight camping areas, and one state park. Detroit Dam on the North Santiam River offers boating and fishing. Numerous streams and mountain lakes offer unlimited fishing opportunities, while the South Santiam and Willamette Rivers provide boating and water sports as well as fishing. The State Fish Hatchery stocks the fishing areas, and at the Hatchery there are picnic facilities.

Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home, Brownsville and Halsey have city parks. There are two privately owned recreation areas—Colorado Lake and Bates Park. Albany, Lebanon and Sweet Home each have an open-air municipal swimming pool. The Hoo-Doo ski area lies within Linn county and accomodates many skiers on its tows.

Albany has a year-round recreational program with two full-time directors. Several other towns have recreational programs under the guidance of part-time or volunteer directors. Albany and Lebanon have choral groups, Albany has a Little Theatre, and there are numerous organized dance groups in the county.

Three horseback riding groups are organized in the county. There are bowling alleys in Albany and Lebanon; golf facilities are limited to the 18-hole Albany course. There are many amateur baseball teams in the summer. The proximity of Oregon State College and the University of Oregon provides many opportunities for spectator sports.

HEALTH FACILITIES

The U. S. Public Health Service recommends for adequate medical care a ratio of 1 physician to each 1,200 people in rural areas. Linn county has a ratio of 1 to

each 1,336 people, with 36 registered medical physicians, 9 osteopaths and 5 chiropractors. However, since residents of this county undoubtedly use the services of some physicians outside of the county and persons in neighboring counties often consult Linn county physicians, our county ratio does not give a true picture of the actual situation.

The U. S. Public Health Service recommends 1 dentist for each 1,200 population. Linn county has 19 dentists, which gives a ratio of 1 to each 3,217 population. As in the case of doctors, there is some overlap with other counties.

There are 4 nursing homes (which meet the requirements) and 4 hospitals in Linn county. The hospitals are located in Albany, Lebanon, and Sweet Home, with a total of 156 beds. Using the State Hospital Plan objective of 2.5 patient beds per 1,000 population in rural areas and 4.0 patient beds per 1,000 in intermediate areas, Linn county should have 196 beds. Here too there is overlap with other counties.

The Linn County Health Department staff has 1 health officer, 3 public health nurses, 1 clinic nurse, and 1 sanitarian.

Farm Organizations and Other Service Groups

We all recognize that farm organizations play a part in the economic and social life in Linn county. Granges, Farm Bureaus, and Farmers Unions meet regularly in various parts of the county. They suggest and endorse farm legislation, discuss problems confronting the farming industry, and serve as a social gathering place for farmers within their area. Linn county has 12 Granges, 5 Farm Bureaus, and 8 Farmers Unions.

Community clubs also figure in the social and informational part of farm life in Linn county. Chambers of Commerce in our larger towns work with farmers and farm organizations in the promotion of their products.

Service clubs such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Exchange, and Lions Clubs work closely with the farmer, and all organizations have farmers as members, as do various women's service organizations.

Financial institutions in Linn county include 13 banking institutions, located in Albany, Lebanon, Sweet Home, Harrisburg, Halsey, Scio, Shedd, and the post offices of Lebanon and Albany. Banks of surrounding counties, Marion, Benton, and Lane, also figure in the financial picture of the county.

Mortgage money is also available through investment companies, Willamette Production Credit, The Federal Land Bank, and individuals. In all, 21 banks and other lending agencies figure in the financial picture of Linn county.

• Technical assistance to farmers is another important cog in the wheel of progress. Local, state, and federal agencies, feed and seed houses, and food processing plants maintain offices and send men into the field to assist farmers in farm production, youth, and home improvement. Some of the most important in Linn county are:

Farmer's Home Administration

The farmer's Home Administration located in Albany is an agency in the U. S. Department of Agriculture and serves eligible farm operators with loans and required technical help on certain farming problems. Services include operating loans, farm ownership loans, water facility loans, emergency loans and special livestock loans.

Agricultural Conservation Program

A.C.P. is one of the conservation services of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Through A.C.P. the public shares with farmers the cost of doing certain needed soil and water conservation measures.

Funds for A.C.P. are appropriated by Congress each year and distributed among states and agricultural counties to help farmers carry out their conservation program.

Soil Conservation Districts

Linn county has two Soil Conservation Districts, the Linn-Lane District located on the extreme south of the county with headquarters in Harrisburg and the East Linn District located in the north central portion of the county, with the district office located in Scio.

The main objective of the districts is to provide for conservation of soil and water resources of this county and for the control and prevention of soil erosion.

Farm Foresters

Farm Foresters are also important. Available in Linn county is the service of the State Forestry Department in matters of forestry conservation, protection and production. The service maintains a forestry specialist on its staff for the benefit of those that are in the production of trees.

State Employment Service

The State of Oregon maintains an employment service in Lebanon and Albany. The agency maintains the office for the service of Linn county people. It is especially helpful during the high labor peaks when farmers are harvesting crops that require a large volume of labor. The service acts as a clearing house for labor in the county.

County Extension Service

The Extension Service of Linn county works closely with the rural population. The service consists of a staff of four agents, with the responsibility and duty of extending the research findings, and available information of the college and the U. S. Department of Agriculture to Linn county. It includes services in all agricultural endeavors, 4-H Club work, and home demonstration work. A staff of subject matter specialists located at Oregon State college are also available to the people of Linn county through the county Extension office.

The County Agricultural planning conference and this report are Extension work.

LAND USE COMMITTEE

Land and water are Linn county's basic resources. Agriculture and forestry and their allied industries are the primary sources of the county's wealth and are dependent upon land and water. Because of this fact, every citizen of the county should be vitally interested in protecting these basic resources.

The county is bounded on the west by the Willamette River and on the north by the Santiam and North Santiam Rivers. Major tributaries to these rivers are the Calapooia River, Crabtree Creek, Thomas Creek, Muddy Creek, Courtney Creek, and Beaver Creek. There are many smaller streams.

These rivers and streams are highly beneficial during the summer months as they supply needed irrigation water, but they are also a tremendous problem during the winter because of flood damage. Serious annual flood damage occurs along all the major rivers and streams mentioned. Flooding causes bank and top soil erosion; deposits of logging debris, sand, and gravel; loss of bridges and fences; loss of crops; spread of weeds and soil-borne diseases; loss of livestock; and is a continual threat to property and human life. The average annual flood damage to Linn county is in excess of one-half million dollars.

Approximately half of the cultivated land in the county is between Albany and Harrisburg. The major soil types here are Dayton and Amity, which are rather heavy and subject to poor internal drainage. The general down slope is to the north and slightly to the west and the fall is less than 4 feet in a mile. This general flatness of the land, coupled with heavy soils, makes a drainage problem of major importance in almost the entire area.

The county's commercial farms are getting larger as rapid changes in farming methods make it possible for one operator to handle more land and greater volume is necessary to meet competition and rising costs.

At the opposite end of the scale, there is a trend toward more country living on farms of under 3 acres. During and immediately following the depression years

of the 30's there was a trend toward small farms of under 50 acres, but this trend has changed since 1950 and full-time farmers are getting larger farms.

The following tables are presented to show the trend in Linn county farms by numbers and acreages and by size and type:

Trends in Farm Numbers and Size in Linn County

Census year	Number of farms	Average size of farms	All Land in farms		Improved land in farms		
			Amount	Portion of county	Amount	Portion of total farmland	Average per farm
		Acres	Acres	Per cent	Acres	Per cent	Acres
1880	1,528	271.0	413,983	28.8	256,000	61.8	167.5
1890	1,711	243.6	416,827	29.0	256,830	61.6	150.0
1900	2,417	203.3	491,439	34.2	216,582	44.1	89.6
1910	2,751	168.1	462,337	32.2	236,033	51.1	85.8
1920	3,041	155.4	472,469	32.2	258,591	54.7	85.0
1925	3,308	141.3	467,353	31.8	248,091	53.1	74.9
1930	3,074	152.5	468,706	31.9	253,980	54.2	82.6
1935	3,849	129.7	499,144	34.0	260,604	52.2	67.7
1940	3,325	145.8	484,800	33.0	263,433	54.3	79.2
1945	3,248	143.3	465,344	31.7	254,422	54.7	78.3
1950	3,369	140.6	473,839	32.3	266,112	56.2	79.0
1954	3,196	159.5	509,899	34.7	274,069	53.7	85.8

Note — Total area of county for census years 1880-1910 given as 1,435,520 acres and given in the 1940 Census of Agriculture as 1,468,160 acres. Source: U. S. Census of Agriculture, retabulated by O.S.C. Extension Service.

Linn County Farms by Size and Type

Farms, by size: (total acres)

Size and type farm	1940	1950	1954
Under 10 acres	392	500	498
Under 3 acres	15	58	82
3 to 9 acres	377	442	416
10 to 29 acres	484	565	530
30 to 49 acres	345	366	325
50 to 69 acres	245	209	215
70 to 99 acres	365	331	288
100 to 139 acres	349	290	257
140 to 179 acres	323	268	242
180 to 219 acres	170	169	160
220 to 259 acres	116	125	118
260 to 499 acres	393	379	396
500 to 999 acres	114	138	134
1,000 acres and over	29	29	33
Total Farms	3,325	3,369	3,196

Farms, by economic class

Commercial Farms, total	2/	1,943	1,828
Class I (\$25,000 or more sold)	54	90	250
Class II (\$10,000 to \$24,999)		435	405
Class III (\$5,000 to \$9,999)	566	337	328
Class IV (\$2,500 to \$4,999)		444	380
Class V (\$1,200 to \$2,499)	2,115	415	360
Class VI (\$250 to \$1,199)		222	105
Other farms	514	1,426	1,275
Part-time 1/		544	475

Farms, by type

Cash grain farms		101	90
Other field crop farms	898	5	21
Vegetable farms	47	79	96
Fruit and nut farms	188	108	65
Dairy farms	445	306	285
Poultry farms	338	198	135
Other livestock farms	30	272	228
General farms		800	797
Primarily crop		394	552
Primarily livestock		79	40
Miscellaneous and unclassified		1,500	1,386

1/ Part-time farms include those with value of products sold of \$250 to \$1,199 and operator either reporting 100 days or more off-farm work or reporting other income exceeding value of agricultural products sold. 2/ In 1940, farms reporting by value of farm products sold, traded or used by farm household. Excludes farms with no products sold, traded or used and unclassified farms.

SOURCE: USDC Census Reports: Housing 1940 and 1950, Agriculture 1940, 1950 and 1954. Prepared by Elvera Horrell, Extension agricultural economist (Statistics), O.S.C. Extension Service, December 8, 1955.

It is interesting to note that in the last 5 years the number of acres of cropland in the county has increased by 7,975 acres. Practically all of this has been the result of clearing in the river bottoms and along sloughs in the valley floor. The following table gives a complete picture as to use of all land in Linn county:

Linn County Land Use (Acres)

Land Area	1924	1939	1944	1949	1954
Land in farms	467,353	484,800	465,344	473,839	509,899
Cropland	248,091	263,433	254,422	266,112	274,069
Harvested	159,535	198,944	205,687	193,920	212,561
Pastured	70,436	51,327	33,006	45,040	41,152
Summer fallow				12,199	11,779
Other (idle	18,120	13,162	15,729		
and failure)				14,953	8,577
Pasture land 1/	165,324	nr.	177,777	158,053	192,468
Wooded	118,224	nr.	114,059	113,911	143,068
Other	47,100	nr.	63,718	44,142	49,400
Improved	nr.	nr.	nr.	nr.	7,190
Other farm land 2/	53,938	nr.	33,145	49,674	43,362
Land not in farms	1,000,807	983,360	1,002,816	994,321	958,261
Total land area	1,408,160	1,468,160	1,468,160	1,468,160	1,468,160
Irrigated land in farms	nr.	2,376	4,201	10,699	19,099
Cropland harvested	nr.	1,810	nr.	8,230	nr.
Other	nr.	566	nr.	2,469	nr.

1/ Not including cropland pastured.

2/ Includes woodland not pastured.

nr. — not reported.

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture.

Since 1950, there has been a decrease in the number of farm owners. The principal reason for this is that farms are being combined to form a larger unit. Here is the breakdown of farm ownership:

	1940	1950	1954
Total number of farms	3,325	3,369	3,196
Full owners	2,020	2,475	2,306
Part owners	557	592	562
Managers	12	3	6
Tenants	736	299	322
Operators working off farm, total	1,381	1,975	1,961
100 days or more	779	1,365	1,414

The findings and recommendations of the Land Use Committee are reported under these headings: flood control and soil erosion, drainage, irrigation, soil fertility, weed control, size of farm units, farm ownerships and part-time farming.

Flood Control and Soil Erosion

Most of Linn county's soil erosion problems can be traced directly to floods along major rivers and streams. Most serious of these are the Willamette River, the Calapooia River, the Santiam River, the South Santiam River, the North Santiam River, Thomas Creek, and Crabtree Creek.

Major floods are fairly well controlled on the Willamette River and the North Santiam River because of Corps of Engineers-constructed dams, but much bank erosion is occurring each year. This soil loss can be prevented only with a series of revetments. The committee strongly recommends that Congress make funds to do this revetment work available to the Corps of Engineers as rapidly as possible.

Authorized flood-control dam projects are Green Peter on the Middle Fork of the South Santiam River and Holley Dam on the Calapooia River. Recommended Corps of Engineers dams are Cascadia on the South Santiam River and Wiley Creek on Wiley Creek. Some planning funds have been provided for Green Peter Dam, but the South Santiam Development Committee is renewing its efforts to secure construction funds during the present session of Congress.

Dams are also needed on Thomas Creek, Crabtree and Beaver Creek. In addition to flood control, these dams will also provide needed irrigation water.

A serious problem in the county is the method of maintenance on existing Corps of Engineers constructed revetments. Some revetments are maintained entirely by the Federal Government while others are maintained by landowners. The Land Use Committee believes that all Corps of Engineers-constructed revetments should be maintained by the Federal Government, and that Congress should provide the necessary funds each year for maintenance. The Land Use Committee recommends that all groups in the county join forces in getting this procedure voted into law.

A survey conducted by your committee shows that every major revetment in the county suffered severe damage this winter and needs major repair at the present time. The committee recommends that the Corps of Engineers repair these revetments under Public Law 99 during the coming summer months.

Where it is necessary to have an organization to contract with the Corps of Engineers in flood control work, the committee recommends the organization of a water control district. The Extension Service will assist with the education phase of the organization. Water control districts are now in operation on Beaver Creek, the South Santiam River, and the Santiam River. The Beaver Creek Water Control District was organized in 1952 and contains 5,000 acres and extends from where Beaver Creek empties into Crabtree Creek to a point about a mile above Salt Lake School. The North Lebanon Water Control District was organized in 1953 and contains 5,200 acres along the South Santiam River and extends to Sanderson's Bridge. The South Santiam River Water Control District was organized in 1952 and contains 3,824 acres. The district starts at Sanderson's Bridge and extends almost to where the North and South Santiam Rivers join. The Dever-Conner Water Control District was organized in 1954 and contains 4,700 acres along the Santiam River. This district is on the Linn county side and extends from a point about a mile south of Jefferson to a point about a mile from the juncture of the Willamette and Santiam Rivers.

Serious erosion problems are caused by careless logging and the clearing of agricultural land. As a result, the committee recommends that cut-over areas subject to erosion be seeded down to a light seeding of grass and that roadways and cat roads be seeded heavily. The diversion of water out of roadways and cat roads will also reduce the amount of erosion.

Debris from careless logging and landclearing is permitted to accumulate in channels and then does much damage during floods. Because of this terrific annual damage, the committee recommends that the conference approve the sending of a resolution to the executive branch of our State Government asking that the State Forester's office be given authority to make logging operators clean up their debris in streams and rivers and that the State Water Resources Board be given the same authority over landclearing carried out by farmers.

Some soil erosion does occur on farm land that is left unprotected during the winter months. As there are adapted legumes and grasses for all conditions in the county, the committee recommends that areas subject to erosion be seeded down. Areas subject to severe damage should be seeded down to a permanent sod. Those areas where only slight erosion might occur can be seeded to a winter cover. Growers have found that common ryegrass is one of the best cover crops to protect river bottom vegetable land during the winter floods. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program will give financial assistance for establishing winter cover.

Drainage

Members of the Land Use Committee have made a detailed survey of the drainage needs of the county. They find, that although much progress has been made in all sections of the county, that there is still much drainage work to be done.

According to a 1944 drainage report issued by the Corps of Engineers, there were 141,200 acres in the county that could be benefitted by drainage. The improvement would necessitate the construction of 168.1 miles of ditches.

Community committeemen under the then PMA program made a drainage survey in 1936 and then revised their figures in 1946. Their last survey showed that there were 94,000 acres that could be drained by open ditches and 40,000 acres that could be improved with tile drainage.

The committee commends all individuals and groups who have been instrumental in getting drainage work done, but must point out that a really effective job isn't going to be done until all landowners along a drainage area cooperate so that an entire area can be done. Because of the lack of cooperation among landowners it has been necessary to start at the upper end of a project instead of the lower end. There are numerous examples of this in the county.

Your committee's survey reveals that there are still 60,000 acres that will benefit by open ditch drainage and 38,000 acres that will be benefitted by tile drainage.

Areas in which major drainage is yet to be completed are shown on a master map in the County Extension office. Among these areas are: the area North and East of Albany, Oak Creek, The Calapooia River and tributaries, the Muddy Creeks, and Lake Creek. There are also numerous smaller areas.

Two soil conservation districts are operating in the county. The Linn-Lane Soil Conservation District was organized in 1946 and comprises 108,310 acres in the two counties. The Linn county portion is bounded on the west by the Willamette River, the Halsey-Brownsville Road is the north boundary and the east boundary runs along the foothills. Headquarters for the district are at Harrisburg. The East Linn Soil Conservation District was organized in 1954 and contains 51,840 acres. The north boundary is the South Santiam River. The south boundary is the Brewster Station-Lacomb Road and the east boundary is the Salt Lake School-Stay on Road. Headquarters for this district are at Scio. (An addition of 522,271 acres was made to this district on July 20, 1956.)

The committee also commends the Linn County Court for its attitude in installing adequate road culverts and in developing good roadside drainage as rapidly as possible.

The committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Landowners along the Calapooia River and its tributaries should study the advisability of organizing a water control district for flood control and drainage improvement in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers.
2. Land owners along all waterways having drainage problem should make every effort to form a pooling agreement under the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program and get the needed work done. Technical assistance is available from the Soil Conservation Service.
3. Land owners in areas not now covered by Soil Conservation Districts should study the possibility of extending the boundaries of existing districts.
4. A concerted effort should be made to expand the installation of tile drainage as many acres now have adequate outlets.
5. The State Highway Commission is requested to advise with landowners in the construction of new highways so that drainage needs will be adequately met.

IRRIGATION

Continued development of irrigation in the county depends upon the construction of storage reservoirs as discussed in the introduction. This is a longtime objective, but is necessary for the full development of the county's potential as the State Engineer's office has reported that all streams and rivers in the county are over appropriated.

The 1954 census of agriculture reports the county as having 19,099 acres under irrigation. Principal irrigated crops are pastures, peppermint, sweet corn, snap beans, strawberries, beets, carrots, dill, red clover, cannery squash and pumpkins, and vegetables for seed.

Most of the county's irrigated acreage is in individual projects, but two districts and three associations are in operation. A summary of these districts and associations follows:

Organized Irrigation, Linn County, 1956

Name	Type	When organized	Source of water	Acres of filing
Muddy Creeks Irrigation Project.....	Cooperative association	1939	McKenzie river	85,080
Lacomb Irrigation District	District	1932	Crabtree creek	1,589
Riverview Ditch Company	Cooperative association	1952	Thomas creek	1,314.9
Scio Water Improvement District.....	Cooperative association	1954	Thomas creek	500
Calapooia River Irrigation Dist.	District	1954	Calapooia river	7,500

The latest figures available from the State Engineer's office show that Linn county farmers have filed applications to irrigate in excess of 17,000 acres from rivers and streams. Many of these filings are delinquent because landowners haven't applied the water to beneficial use.

According to the 1954 census of agriculture, the county has 281 farm ponds. Some of these ponds are used for irrigation, but most of the ponds don't have sufficient storage capacity to be practical. Construction of ponds for the culture of fish is becoming more common.

This is the committee's estimate of the sources of irrigation water for the 19,099 acres under irrigation at the present time:

Source	Acres	Percent of total
Streams and rivers	9,649	50.52
Wells	9,300	48.70
Ponds	150	.78

The committee calls attention to the Water Resources Act of 1955 which was enacted for the purpose of protecting the State's ground water resources. The act provides that irrigation wells drilled prior to August 3, 1955 must be registered prior to August 3, 1958 or they will be considered abandoned. The act also provides that a permit must be secured for all new irrigation wells. Well drillers must also have a license. The act exempts wells used for stock watering purposes or domestic use. Details on the Act can be secured from the State Engineer's office in Salem or the County Extension office in Albany.

Much of the land subject to irrigation in the county is not suitable for the production of specialty and vegetable crops. At the present time, the only adapted crop is pasture, which has a low return per acre because of the relatively low price for cattle. It appears to the committee that it is going to be necessary to develop some new crops or varieties of present crops that will respond to irrigation before much of this land will pay under irrigation.

Recommendations of the committee are:

1. Citizens of the county work toward the construction of storage dams on the South Santiam River, the Calapooia River, Wiley Creek, Thomas Creek, Beaver Creek and Crabtree Creek.
2. That a careful study be made of the storage capacity of farm reservoirs before construction is undertaken for irrigation purposes. On an average, 2½ acre feet of water must be stored for every acre to be irrigated.

3. That landowners comply with the Water Resources Act of 1955.
4. That a careful study be made of existing irrigation projects and districts to see if additional acreage can be served.
5. That the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station undertake a project to determine if there are some new crops or some new varieties that will respond to irrigation. For example, maybe there is a variety of spring oats that will really pay when grown on heavy soils and irrigated.

SOIL FERTILITY

Although surpluses are now existing in many branches of agriculture, the committee recognizes the importance of the maintenance and building of soil fertility. It is unquestionable that in years to come our existing farm lands are going to be called upon to produce increasing quantities of food and fiber. Continued use of our land with this in mind will meet the needs when the time comes.

Intensive use of cover crops, the growing of legumes and grasses, and the wise use of crop residues are means of maintaining and building soil fertility. The Land Use Committee concurs with the Farm Crops Committee in their recommendations urging the seeding of cover crops, the growing of grasses and legumes in the crop rotation, the seeding of pastures, and the utilization of crop residues.

Many of the county's soils are acid, and lime must be used before legumes can be grown successfully. The following summary of soil tests in the county for the years 1953, 1954, and 1955 shows this need.

SUMMARY OF LINN COUNTY SOIL TEST RESULTS 1953-54-55

Acidity (pH) (649 soils tested)						
Below 5.0	5.0 - 5.4	5.5 - 5.7	5.8 - 6.0	6.1 - 6.5	Above 6.5	
50	277	166	113	41	2	
7.7%	42.7%	25.6%	17.4%	6.3%	0.3%	
LIME REQUIREMENTS (649 soils tested)						
None	1 - 1½ tons	2 - 2½ tons	3 - 3½ tons	4 - 5 tons	Above 5 tons	
3	121	257	188	75	5	
0.5%	18.6%	39.6%	29.0%	11.5%	0.8%	
PHOSPHORUS (647 soils tested)						
Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High		
179	122	157	102	87		
27.7%	18.8%	24.3%	15.8%	13.4%		
POTASSIUM (406 soils tested)						
Low	Medium	High	Very High			
36	100	132	138			
8.9%	24.6%	32.5%	34.0%			
CALCIUM (401 soils tested)						
Low	Medium	High				
58	145	198				
14.5%	36.1%	49.4%				

In addition to the need for lime, this table also brings out the need for phosphorus and points to the fact that potassium is going to become a factor as the soils become older.

Farmers report in the 1954 census of agriculture that they spent \$1,681,306 for fertilizer materials, principally nitrogen. Records in the A.S.C. office show that Linn county farmers are applying an average of 9,000 tons of line under the various ACP practices.

Recommendations of the committee are:

1. Use more cover and green manure crops.
2. Growing more legumes in the crop rotation plan.

3. Use of the soil testing program offered by Oregon State College.
4. The A.S.C. program should continue to assist with the application of lime.
5. The Extension Service of Oregon State College should expand their fertilizer trials as rapidly as personnel and funds will permit.
6. Burning of straw from annual crops is discouraged.

WEED CONTROL

Weeds are always a problem in an area as widely diversified as in Linn county. Annual weeds of major importance are pig weed, lambs quarter, groundsel, wild oats, rattail fescue, and annual bluegrass. Biennial and perennial weeds of importance are Canada thistle, morning glory, quack grass, tansy ragwort, wild garlic, plantain, and sheep sorrel.

As new chemicals are always being developed, the committee recommends that the Extension Service keep farmers informed of the latest developments.

The committee also recommends that farmers in Linn county not use the airplane in spraying or dusting crops with 2,4-D.

SIZE OF FARM UNITS

The committee wishes to point out that what was once considered a farm unit is no longer such because conditions have changed so that it takes more to pay expenses and leave a profit. Points to consider in selecting a farm are drainage; flood; water for irrigation; soil types; utilities; roads; schools and busses; milk routes; taxes; markets; are buildings and land in balance; the investment in machinery; will the land justify the purchase of machinery, interest, and the amount of equity.

The committee believes that the farmers should have a living standard equivalent to other people with equal education, investment, and endeavor.

FARM OWNERSHIP

Many farms in the county are passing into the hands of lawyers, doctors, merchants, and farmers who already are large landowners. The committee discourages this trend as not being good for the county. Many of these farms are cash-rented to other operators and buildings and other improvements are allowed to run down.

PART-TIME FARMING

Much has been written about the advantages of part-time farming, but the committee wishes to point out some of the points that must be considered in deciding upon this venture:

1. Will the soil types permit diversity?
2. How much machinery is needed to operate the acreage?
3. Will the farm produce enough income to pay taxes and other operating expenses?
4. Will the enterprises be large enough to be efficient?
5. Is there a market for the products produced?

FARM CROPS COMMITTEE

Linn county farmers are able to grow more than 30 field crops in commercial quantities. Reasons for this diversity are a wide range in soil types, each suitable for certain crops; the frequency of mild winters; the lack of summer rainfall, which permits the harvest of quality grass and legume seeds; and the availability of irrigation water.

This diversity makes it possible for the farmers on the better soil types to practice crop rotation and spread their risk over a number of field crops, but it also increases his problems in disease and pest control, fertilization, marketing, and utilization. Farmers on the heavier soil types do not have an opportunity for this diversity and must depend upon a few field crops. This situation creates a serious

problem when production of heavy-soil-type crops outstrips consumption.

Linn county continues to lead other Oregon counties in the production of seed crops. The estimates of 1955 farm marketings shows that farmers in the county received \$4,355,000 for their seed crops as compared to \$6,700,000 in 1954. The sharp drop is due principally to lower prices for common and perennial ryegrass and chewings fescue seed.

Definite trends have developed over the years in the crop production pattern in the county. The following table shows changes that have taken place in the cropping program over the last 37 years:

Per Cent of Cropland in Various Crops—Linn County 1919 to 1954

Crops	1919	1929	1939	1944	1954
	197,000 acres percent	172,000 acres percent	212,000 acres percent	227,000 acres percent	237,000 acres percent
Small grain and corn	57.0	44.8	41.4	36.2	30.8
Hay crops	25.9	21.2	18.0	15.5	10.3
Forage crop seeds	3.0	12.7	28.4	36.1	46.5
Tree fruits and nuts	2.3	3.2	1.9	1.6	.3
Small fruit crops2	1.2	1.0	.5	.4
Potatoes and truck crops	1.0	1.0	.7	1.2	1.6
Other specialty crops2	1.0	.9	2.0	1.5
Fallow, idle, failure	10.4	14.9	7.7	6.9	8.6

Acreage of forage crop seeds has steadily climbed over the years, mostly at the expense of the small grain and hay acreage.

Steady improvement in pastures has been an outstanding development of the past 10 years. The A.S.C. program has been a major factor in the expansion, as have tours arranged by various group such as the Linn County Livestock Association and Extension Service.

Recommendations of the Farm Crops Committee are grouped under the headings of seed crops, grains, hay crops, silage, and pasture.

SEED CROPS

The production of forage seed is expected to remain a major Linn county industry. The business is now firmly established and growers have the production "know how". Reliable dealers are located throughout the area and the good quality seed produced is receiving favor throughout the consuming areas.

The following table shows the acreage of seed crops harvested over the past several years.

Seed Crop Acreages—Linn County 1945 to 1955

Crops	Average 1954-49	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
Common Ryegrass	53,600	76,500	63,000	77,000	67,000	76,000	77,000
Perennial Ryegrass	9,760	8,000	10,000	13,500	15,600	19,500	24,500
Alta fescue	3,720	7,500	8,500	9,000	5,500	3,600	3,200
Chewings fescue	1,125	1,600	1,600	2,000	2,200	2,800	2,750
Highland bentgrass	395	1,000	900	1,000	900	1,800	2,000
Hairy vetch	5,580	7,100	2,500	3,000	2,500	300	300
Australian peas	1,760	5,000	600	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,200
Common vetch	10,960	9,000	5,000	2,000	1,500	1,000	1,000
Red clover	1,280	1,000	400	500	500	800	600
Crimson clover	100	350	500	500	300	50	75

COMMON RYEGRASS

The acreage of common ryegrass has shown a spectacular increase as have yields during the past 20 years. In 1936 there were 15,500 acres grown in the county

and a yield of 300 pounds of clean seed per acre was considered good.

In 1955 Linn county harvested 77,000 acres that had an average yield of approximately 1,000 pounds per acre. This increased yield has been due to better weed control methods and increased efficiency in the use of fertilizer.

In addition to Linn county, common ryegrass is produced in Benton, Lane, Polk, Marion, Washington, Yamhill, and Clackamas counties. This wasn't true a few years ago.

Common ryegrass is Linn county's most important agricultural enterprise. The Farm Crops Committee has devoted much time during the past two years in an effort to get production in line with consumption.

In 1954 Oregon produced 105 million pounds of common ryegrass. Added to this was a carryover of $8\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds from 1953 so the total supply in 1954 was $113\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds. Disappearance in 1954 amounted to $92\frac{1}{2}$ million. 20 million pounds exported and $72\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds consumed in the United States.

The 1955 crop again totaled 105 million pounds. With the 21-million-pound carryover, this made a total supply of 128 million pounds for 1955. There was no export market in 1955 and domestic use was approximately 75 million pounds. This leaves a carryover going into the 1956 season of about 50 million pounds.

A voluntary acreage reduction campaign conducted in the fall of 1955 is believed to have reduced the valley's acreage by 25 per cent. The winter freezes have also weakened late sown stands and in some cases have taken fields completely out of production.

In order to keep the production of common ryegrass as one of the county's sound enterprises, the committee offers the following recommendations as immediate means of reducing production:

1. Take high ground on valley floor, river bottom soil and hill land out of common ryegrass. In its place seed grey winter oats, Austrian pears, common vetch, hairy vetch, crimson clover, red clover, alfalfa, or field corn for grain or hogging down.
2. Practice a rotation by eliminating the practice of growing common ryegrass on the same field year after year. Put half the ryegrass land to other uses such as the growing of spring grain, pasture for sheep, or summer fallow exceedingly foul fields.
3. Obtain some livestock and use the land for pasture or to grow feed grains. Sheep offer the best possibility, although hogs and beef cattle do have a place.
4. As a longtime program, the committee recommends that growers make a thorough study of methods that can be employed to increase the consumption of one of America's best grasses. Possible organizations that might accomplish this objective are a seed commission, an informal association, and a non-profit corporation.

**Production Costs per acre for Common and Perennial Ryegrass Seed
(Linn County, Oregon, 1956)**

Cost item	Common ryegrass	Perennial ryegrass
Estimated cash costs per acre		
Common seed, 20 pounds	\$ 1.20	
Perennial seed, 20 pounds, planting amortized over 4 years		\$ 8.00
Fertilizer: 80 pounds N on common ryegrass; 40 pounds P205 and 100 pounds N on perennial	12.00	19.00
Power: tractor, combine, etc.	5.00	2.00
Weed control	2.00	9.00
Taxes on land	3.00	3.00
Other costs: cleaning, warehousing, etc.	12.00	12.50
Non-cash costs per acre		
Interest on land, @ 4%	8.00	8.00
Interest and depreciation: machines, buildings	11.00	8.00
Family labor	6.00	4.00
Total costs per acre	\$ 60.20	\$73.50

Yield per Acre Needed to Break Even at Various Market Prices

Common Ryegrass		Perennial Ryegrass	
Price per pound	Pounds per acre	Price per pound	Pounds per acre
4c	1,505	7c	1,050
5c	1,204	8c	919
6c	1,003	9c	817
7c	860	10c	735

PERENNIAL RYEGRASS

Perennial ryegrass has been a good crop for Linn county farmers over the past 15 years. Probably no other crop has had such a steady growth in acreage and in consumption, but the committee is recommending that growers maintain their present acreage as further expansion is not justified at this time.

Blind seed disease control measures should be practiced at all times.

ALTA FESCUE

Growers are justified in leaving high-yielding stands of alto fescue, as there is no other grass that will stand the punishment as well as this grass. The committee recommends that growers be on the alert for new strains that will be more palatable.

Growers can produce a better product through chemical weed control and can help sell their own product by giving publicity to the fact that alta fescue is a good livestock grass.

CHEWINGS FESCUE

Imports of creeping red fescue have seriously affected the price for chewings fescue seed. It is recommended that all low-yielding fields (below 400 pounds per acre) be taken out of production.

HIGHLAND BENTGRASS

Linn county's 2,000 acres of highland bentgrass is confined mainly to the north-eastern portion, although some is being grown on the valley floor. The committee recommends that the center of the production remain in the northeastern part of the county and that the acreage continue at about the present level. Farmers making new seedings on the valley floor should consider the work involved in destroying an established stand.

MERION BLUEGRASS

Linn county only has a very small acreage. The committee believes that there is room for a few producers of this rather specialized seed crop. Seedings should be made in rows on well drained soil.

ORCHARD GRASS

Some of the newer strains such as Potomac offer promise. Small trial plantings are justified at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS GRASSES

Other grasses grown in Linn county include: Tualatin oatgrass, Burnet, Meadow foxtail, Sudan.

These grasses can be grown successfully for seed. The committee recommends that growers watch the demand for these seeds and be prepared to expand their plantings if the demand develops. Sudan grass fits into the farming program where the ryegrasses are being fallowed in.

LEGUME SEED CROPS

Since the grass seed crops have been a good price there has been a very rapid drop in the acreage of all legume seed crops. The committee views this with alarm as there are many farms that could be growing legumes in the crop rotation program. Legumes are good soil builders and in most recent years have given fair returns for the seed.

HAIRY VETCH

The hairy vetch acreage dropped to 300 acres in 1955, a low for recent years. It is recommended that the county grow at least 3,000 acres of hairy vetch. Direct combining will eliminate much of the harvesting trouble.

COMMON VETCH

The county's common vetch acreage has dropped to 1,000 acres. This is much too low for a county with several thousand acres that will successfully grow this crop. The growing of at least 5,000 acres annually is recommended.

RED CLOVER

Red clover offers a real opportunity for expansion on our better soils subject to irrigation. The first crop can be used for hay, silage, or pasture and then a seed crop can be produced. The river bottom farmer could make very good use of red clover in his soil building program. The committee believes that the county should annually harvest 3,000 acres for seed. Kenland is the present strain that is in demand.

WHITE CLOVER

Linn county is almost out of white clover seed production, but the committee believes that 1,000 acres can be profitably grown in the county. Strains in demand are New Zealand, Kentish, and Dutch. Seed dealers should be contacted to see which strain they will buy. White clover is a legume that will do well on the heavy soil types.

SUB CLOVER

There is a limited demand for some sub clover seed each year. Be sure to determine if your particular strain is in demand before harvesting seed. Good strains for this area are Mt. Barker, Tallarook, and Nangeela. If one doesn't have a suction machine, the best harvesting procedure at present is to let it mature and then rake with a side delivery rake.

CRIMSON CLOVER

Linn county has been growing an average of only 50 acres of crimson clover a year. The committee recommends that the county grow 1,000 acres of crimson clover each year. Crimson clover is a good soil builder and can be used by the farmer having sheep to furnish winter and early spring pasture and then produce a seed crop. Reseeding strains are recommended for the well drained soils. Harvesting is difficult.

TREFOIL

There is a place for the production of limited quantities of trefoil seed. Birdsfoot trefoil is adapted to the better drained soils and Big Trefoil is adapted to the wetter soils. Granger is the strain of Birdsfoot in demand. Columbia and Beaver are strains of Big Trefoil. The Columbia strain is preferred because of the smooth leaf.

AUSTRIAN PEAS

Austrian peas are one of our best soil builders. In recent years livestock and poultry feeders have found that peas make a good protein supplement when fed in quantities not to exceed 25 percent of the ration. The county is only growing 1,200 acres at present but can grow 5,000 acres annually as a soil builder and feed.

GRAINS

Linn county produces a surplus of barley and oats, but must import both wheat

and field corn. The production of wheat is limited by Federal regulations, but field corn production can be increased. During the past 37 years much of the land that formerly grew small grains has been converted to forage crop seeds. During this period of low prices for common ryegrass, some of the better ryegrass land could be shifted profitably to the production of grain. The committee recommends more farm storage in order to assure the highest prices for grain. Smut is still an important disease, so all wheat, oats, and barley should be treated before planting.

WHEAT

The poultry industry needs feed wheat—much of which must be shipped into the county. As long as wheat is supported on a milling basis, the committee recommends that farmers grow up to their allotment or the 15 acres, whichever is greater. No price supports are available unless a grower has an allotment. Marketing cards are required by all farmers who sell wheat.

OATS

Linn county has grown around 30,000 acres of oats annually in recent years. The crop should continue to be an important grain because oats are better adapted to many of the county's soil types, particularly those that stay wet and cold late in the spring. Winter oats can be grown profitably with vetches.

BARLEY

Barley is Linn county's second most important grain crop. The acreage usually runs between 18,000 and 25,000 acres. The recommended spring variety is Hanchen, a two-row malting barley. To produce barley of malting quality, growers must give special attention to the following:

1. Grow on good land that is well fertilized.
2. Let fully mature before harvesting.
3. Thresh carefully.
4. Keep good quality lots separate from poor lots.

CORN

Oregon is on a deficit basis for corn, as more than 70,000 tons are shipped into the state annually. Local growers have demonstrated that good yields can be obtained from both non-irrigated and irrigated field corn. Yields have averaged 75 bushels per acre without irrigation and 100 bushels per acre with irrigation.

Mechanical harvesting and drying equipment are necessary for larger acreages. Small acreages can be handled satisfactorily by hand and bin storage. Hogging down offers opportunity.

Only fast-maturing hybrids are recommended. Be sure to plant the one adapted to the locality.

The committee recommends an expansion in the field corn acreage; the expansion to take place just as fast as harvesting and drying equipment is available.

CHEAT

Cheat makes a good grain for livestock feed. The crop offers an opportunity for fall sowing on low ground. Cheat will in many cases outyield spring oats. Be sure to treat for smut.

HAY CROPS

In recent years the county has been growing about 23,000 acres or 35,000 tons of hay annually—which isn't enough to take care of local demands. It is estimated that at least 10,000 tons of alfalfa hay are brought into the county each year from Eastern Oregon.

ALFALFA

The county needs more alfalfa acreage. The 1954 census shows 1,720 acres. The county can safely grow 5,000 acres on the well-drained, sweet soils. Recommended varieties are Talent, DuPuits and Granger. A soil test is recommended before seeding alfalfa. Loss of the first cutting through rain is one reason why the alfalfa acreage isn't large, but this hazard can largely be overcome through the construction of a silo.

OTHER HAYS

Red clover, the trefoils, vetches, and peas all make good hay. The grains and mixtures of grasses and legumes also make excellent hay if cut early enough.

Aftermath from some of the grasses such as alta fescue makes excellent hay for beef cattle and dry stock if it is properly handled to retain its green color.

SILAGE

Silage is becoming more popular in the county each year and its use will continue to increase. In 1954, 172 farmers cut 1913 acres and made 13,440 tons of silage. The committee recommends that every livestockman investigate the possibility of a silage program. Preliminary investigation reveals that silage program may be more practical than letting livestock run on irrigated pasture from the standpoint of increased yield and less parasite problems.

PASTURE

According to the 1954 census Linn county has 7,190 acres of pasture under irrigation. Practically all of this pasture is utilized by dairy and beef cattle, but much of the pasture isn't producing to capacity. Reasons include poor species of grasses and legumes, improper fertilization, improper irrigation, and poor management.

The committee recommends that:

1. All low yielding pastures be broken up and reseeded.
2. A good fertilizer program be developed.
3. Proper irrigation be given.
4. Silage or hay be made from excess growth in spring.
5. The daily-ration system be tried.
6. The green crop method be tried.
7. Experimental work be continued in cattle and sheep parasite control.

The 1954 census of agriculture also lists the county as having 41,152 acres of cropland seeded to pastures and 49,400 acres of non-cropland pasture.

The committee recommends that all run-down seeded pastures be broken up and reseeded, and that native pastures along the foothills be worked up and seeded to good grass and legume mixtures. There are a number of species of grasses and legumes that are doing a good job. Among these are alta fescue, orchard grass, Tualatin oat grass, perennial ryegrass, meadow foxtail, and sub clover, birdsfoot trefoil and white clover.

Landowners interested in a pasture improvement program and wishing to receive financial aid are advised to contact the A.S.C. office in the courthouse.

FIBER FLAX

Fiber flax has been an up and down crop in the county. In 1955 300 acres were grown, compared to 1,200 acres in 1945.

Fiber flax is a good crop for the county providing a market is secured for the straw. The future for fiber flax in the county depends entirely upon what happens to the one processing plant left in the area.

SIZE OF FARM UNIT

In order for a farmer to make a good living the Farm Crops Committee believes that the following sized units will be necessary:

1. Ryegrass farm with heavy soil types—200 to 320 acres.
2. General diversified farm with combination of soil types—100 to 160 acres.

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

Approximately 4½ percent of the cropland in Linn county is utilized in the production of horticulture crops. In 1954, \$3,085,000 in products were marketed from 10,413 acres and employment was provided for thousands of people.

The amount of land in the county suitable for horticulture crops far exceeds the present market outlet for such products. As a result, the committee believes that the farmers and processors of the area always should be on the alert to expand those horticulture enterprises to fit the demands.

Major soil series in the county considered suitable for horticulture crops are Newberg, Chehalis, Willamette, Aiken and Olympic. This is a potential of 119,100 acres. It is natural to assume that not all of these acres are ideal for horticultural crops because of flood damage, fertility, diseases, lack of irrigation water, and lo-

cation, but it does point out that the county has great potentiality. A breakdown of these major soil series and their adaptability follows:

Soil Series	Acres	Crops
Newberg	21,600	All
Chehalis	33,500	All
Willamette	30,000	Sweet corn, beans, strawberries, cane berries, filberts, walnuts, tree fruits
Aiken	10,500	Strawberries, trailing berries, blackcaps
Olympic	23,500	Strawberries, trailing berries, blackcaps, filberts, walnuts, sweet cherries, prunes

The Newberg and Chehalis soil series are mainly along the major streams. Large areas of these soil series lie south of Harrisburg, west of Corvallis, west of Albany, north of Albany, west of Scio, and north and south of Lebanon. The Willamette soils are the ridges on the valley floor with fairly large areas located along Muddy Creek. The Aiken and Olympic soil series are hill soils mainly east of Scio and around Lacombe and Sweet Home.

A major horticultural development during the past 10 years has been the rapid expansion of the vegetable acreage, principally snap beans and sweet corn. Reasons for this sharp increase have been good yields of quality products as a result of irrigation, fertilization, insect pest control, disease control, mechanization, the merchandizing done by processors and the increased population on the West Coast.

The following tables show acreages and prices received for principal horticultural crops in Linn county during recent years:

Acreage Planted in Principal Horticultural Crops—Linn County, Oregon, 1934-1955

Crop	1934 Acres	1940 Acres	1945 Acres	1950 Acres	1955 Acres
Strawberries	1,237	1,000	325	425	350
Red raspberries		300	220	240	175
Black raspberries		325	320	275	225
Boysenberries		190	145	160	60
Snap beans	18	80	190	475	950
Sweet corn	80	200	550	800	2,000
Beets		55	500	400	300
Carrots		130	325	165	150
Peppermint		60	900	3,000	3,500
Filberts		700	850	1,050	500
Walnuts		1,050	1,050	1,050	1,000
Sour cherries and					
Sweet cherries	306	350	350	275	225
Prunes	1,573	1,000	625	400	175

Average Prices Received for Horticultural Crops—Linn County, 1935-1955

Crop	1935-39	1940-44	1945-49	1950-54	1954	1955
Strawberries c/lb.	5.9	9.7	19.2	17.0	14.7	15.6
Red raspberries c/lb.	6.9	12.0	18.7	18.0	15.0	10.0
Black raspberries c/lb.	6.6	10.4	20.6	21.3	31.4	21.0
Boysenberries c/lb.	4.9	8.3	12.0	12.2	11.8	8.0
Snap beans \$/T	53.34	95.32	127.35	123.22	133.10	122.80
Sweet corn \$/T	14.52	20.88	30.76	30.38	25.90	24.70
Beets \$/T	18.10	18.94	23.00	26.24	28.30	25.70
Carrots \$/T				20.00	20.00	21.00
Peppermint \$/lb.	1.78	4.87	6.07	5.44	5.30	6.00
Filberts \$/T	237.00	385.00	332.00	332.00	320.00	440.00
Walnuts \$/T	214.00	319.00	334.00	330.00	260.00	490.00
Sweet cherries \$/T	64.00	160.00	224.00	250.00	274.00	173.00
Prunes \$/T	19.49	51.84	68.48	76.84	59.80	70.80

**ESTIMATED COSTS OF PRODUCTION, AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED, AND
AVERAGE YIELDS FOR SEVERAL OREGON COMMODITIES**

COMMODITY	1955 Estimated cost of production assuming different yields						Average prices 1950-54	Average yields per acre	Based on Oreg. Agri. Exp. Station Bulletin No.
	Yield/acre	Est. cost	Yield/acre	Est. cost	Yield/acre	Est. cost			
Filberts	500 lbs.	\$.28	1,000 lbs.	\$.18	1,500 lbs.	\$.13	\$.165	1,132 lbs/1	517
Walnuts	500 lbs.	\$.23	1,000 lbs.	\$.16	1,500 lbs.	\$.13	\$.165	741 lbs/1	518
Strawberries	2,000 lbs.	\$.25	6,000 lbs.	\$.12	10,000 lbs.	\$.10	\$.169	3,698 lbs/2	469
Snap beans	5 tons	\$132.00	10 tons	\$112.00	12 tons	\$107.00	\$127.16	7.1 tons/3	452
Sweet corn	3 tons	\$ 39.00	4 tons	\$ 34.00	6 tons	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.02	3.7 tons/3	465
Table beets	8 tons	\$ 28.00	12 tons	\$ 21.00	14 tons	\$ 19.00	\$ 24.56	11.0 tons/3	466
Carrots	10 tons	\$ 23.00	15 tons	\$ 18.00	20 tons	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	14.0 tons/4	467
Sweet cherries	2,000 lbs.	\$.18	4,000 lbs.	\$.11	10,000 lbs.	\$.08	\$.125	2,079 lbs/5	454
Boysenberries	2,000 lbs.	\$.22	4,000 lbs.	\$.12	6,000 lbs.	\$.09	\$.122	2,040 lbs/6	470
Red Raspberries	2,000 lbs.	\$.24	4,000 lbs.	\$.15	6,000 lbs.	\$.135	\$.180	2,466 lbs/6	472
Black Raspberries ...	1,000 lbs.	\$.26	2,000 lbs.	\$.19	4,000 lbs.	\$.16	\$.213	1,341 lbs/6	473

Footnotes: /1 Study average, 1949, dried nuts. /2 1952-55. /3 1943-52. /4 1949-52. /5 1932-46. /6 1950-54.

Explanation: Cost of production estimates are based on previous studies by Oregon State College and brought up to date by taking account of changes in farm wage rates and other cost of production as measured by the Parity Index.

Source: Department of Agricultural Economics, Oregon State College 12-15-55.

STRAWBERRIES

Oregon's record 1955 tonnage accounted for nearly one-fifth of the nation's strawberries. Oregon ranked second in strawberry production in 1955. California recently moved into first place.

Linn county produced 980 tons of strawberries from 350 acres in 1955. The state produced 44,226 tons from 18,200 acres.

The committee feels that Linn county isn't producing enough strawberries and recommends that the crop be increased gradually to 1,500 acres.

Growers are urged to use new soil, or soil that hasn't previously grown strawberries and that has been built to good fertility through the growing of cover crops or legumes. Two years of cover cropping is suggested. Red clover, alfalfa, and grass sod crops are also good soil builders. New growers should consider the available labor supply. Weevil control, aphid control, rot control with Captan, proper fertilization, weed control, good plants, and irrigation are necessary for high yields. The committee only recommends strawberries where growers can get yields of 4 tons or more per acre.

One of the biggest drawbacks to increasing strawberry acreage and yields is the lack of a high-yielding, disease resistant variety. As a result, the committee recommends that the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture continue their efforts to develop such a strawberry. The new Siletz berry offers possibilities. Other varieties being grown at present are Marshall and Northwest.

Much damage has been done the strawberry industry through the sale of inferior and diseased plants. Because of this, the committee recommends that all strawberry plants offered for sale be subject to inspection of the State Department of Agriculture and must meet certain quality and disease-free standards before being permitted to be sold.

RED RASPBERRIES

The acreage of red raspberries in the county can be increased when the demand justifies. The county has the deep river bottom soil necessary for successful production. At the present, the committee suggests that the acreage be held at its present level, 175 acres, by replacing present old, low-yielding patches. The Washington is the leading variety at present. Other varieties are Willamette, and Newburgh.

BLACK RASPBERRIES

Linn county has several thousand acres of hill soil adapted to the production of black raspberries, but it is recommended that the present acreage of 225 acres be held at present by replacing old patches. Good plants should be obtained and planted only on good hill soil that has been built up through the use of cover crops, legumes or sod crops. Leading varieties are Logan, Munger, and Plum Farmer.

BOYSENBERRIES

A slight increase from the present 60 acres is justified. Plant only on good, adapted soil. Further increases can be made as market conditions develop.

BLUE BERRIES

There is a possibility of expanding the blueberry acreage on a small-acreage basis for fresh market at the start, and later for cannery on a contract basis. This is an expensive enterprise to establish.

SNAP BEANS

The county's major processing crop is snap beans. Future development of this crop depends entirely on market demands. Growers planning to establish a bean yard should study the cost of production and the available labor supply. Rotation should be considered to reduce the losses from disease such as white mold and root rot.

SWEET CORN

The growing of sweet corn for processing is an important enterprise, but low

prices have been discouraging during the past two years. More attention should be given to irrigation and fertilization in order to get high yields of quality products.

BEETS

A good quality cannery beet is grown in the county, although the acreage is somewhat limited because of market demands. Prospective growers must take into consideration the cost of weed control and harvesting equipment.

CARROTS

Large tonnages of high quality carrots are grown on the Newburgh soil series. Two of the biggest drawbacks to carrot growing are the lateness of harvest and the cost of harvesting equipment.

PEPPERMINT

In order to keep the price of mint oil at a profitable level, it is recommended that the county's present acreage of 3,500 acres be maintained. Growers are urged to spray escape mint to control rust and to practice crop rotation to control diseases, insects, and weeds. Old, weak fields should be replaced.

Verticillium wilt is the most serious problem facing the mint growers at the present time. The committee makes the following recommendations regarding control of the disease:

1. Don't keep the disease a secret—make it known and then proceed to practice control methods.
2. Practice crop rotation—don't have mint in too long. Sweet corn and field corn are believed to be good rotation crops.
3. Don't plant mint in fields previously cropped to tomatoes or potatoes.
4. Frequent irrigation and a high level of fertilization will lessen the damage from Verticillium wilt.
5. Steam or hose clean implements to keep from spreading the disease when moving from field to field.

FILBERTS

All high yielding filbert groves should be kept in production. The committee believes that a mature orchard should produce 1,000 pounds of dried nuts per acre in order to be profitable. The filbert worm continues to be the leading problem when control methods aren't carried out completely.

WALNUTS

The county's present planting of 1000 acres should be maintained. Replacements should be made on compatible root stock—do not use black walnut root stock.

SWEET CHERRIES

The sweet cherry acreage can be expanded as many orchards are getting old and are light producers. New plantings should be put on good upland or bottom soils. Growers should insist on disease-free planting stocks.

SOUR CHERRIES

The present 125 acres are sufficient until the demand warrants additional plantings.

PRUNES

Remove all old rundown orchards and leave only the healthy orchards. If new orchards are being set out use the new varieties.

VEGETABLE SEEDS

Cucumber, squash, spinach, pumpkin, and cabbage seeds are being grown successfully in the county. All production is on a contract basis.

COVER CROPS

Cover crops are necessary on all tree fruit, vegetable and cane and trailing

berry soil to maintain satisfactory yields and to protect the soil in the winter. Growers are advised to take advantage of the cover crop practice under the A.S.C. program. One of the very best cover crops for overflow vegetable and tree fruit and nut soils is common ryegrass.

HOLLY

A specialty crop that offers possibility is holly. Plantings in Oregon have increased from 425 acres in 1940 to 1,250 in 1955.

There is room for an acreage of frost-resistant holly in the county. Prospective growers should select their site and varieties very carefully. It will require 8 years for holly trees to come into commercial production.

SIZE OF UNIT

The committee agreed that the minimum acreage for a horticulture farm should be 60 acres of good soil with irrigation.

Under present day conditions it is very difficult for a man to start farming unless he has financial backing from a relative or friend. It would be very helpful in agriculture to have more financing over a long period of time at low interest rates.

RESEARCH

The committee recommends that the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station continue research on controlling the following pests and diseases:

1. Symphjllids
2. Nematodes
3. Verticillium wilt (mint and cane berries)
4. Rust (mint and beans)
5. White mold (beans)
6. Little bud in cherries
7. Wilt (Rhubarb)

FARM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Grass seed, small grains, and similar products have for many years been recognized as important agricultural crops in Linn county, but it is only in the past three years that timber has been recognized as an important agricultural crop. The change in thinking has been brought about by many groups working together to demonstrate that small woodlands can be a profitable crop if handled properly.

According to a U. S. Forest Service Survey conducted in 1945, Linn county has 986,385 acres of commercial forest. Of this total, 444,010 acres are Federally owned or managed, 31, 070 acres are state or county owned and 511,305 acres are privately owned.

A further breakdown reveals that of the 511,305 acres in private ownership, 242,852 acres are owned by 2,393 owners, each having less than 5,000 acres. The 1955 census of agriculture further shows that 162,599 of these acres are owned by farmers.

It is the owners of the 242,852 acres that the Linn County Farm Forestry Committee is trying to reach in their program.

The following figures show the importance of timber production in the economy of Linn county. (Most of these were collected in 1954 by First National Bank of Portland from U. S. Forest Service, Industrial Forestry Association, Business Executive Research Committee, U. S. Census Bureau, State Industrial Accident Commission, and State Board of Forestry.)

Volume of live sawtimber, 1945	30,745 million bd. ft., estimated.
Log production, 1954 (from Office of State Forester).....	539 million bd. ft., log scale.
Estimated log production, 1975	550 million bd. ft., log scale.
Lumber production, 1952	462 million bd. ft., lumber tally.
Number of sawmills, 1956	46
Employment in forest products industries, average month, 1953	5,735 persons
Employment in forest production industries, 1975, estimated	6,400 persons
Payrolls in forest products industries, 1953	\$25,300,000
Payrolls in forest products industries, 1975, estimated	\$51,800,000
Population, 1940	30,485 persons
Population, 1953	58,600 persons
Population, 1975, estimated	95,000 persons

Here are some rather startling facts released in October 1955 by the National Timber Resource Review based on information gathered by the United States Forest Service with the help of state foresters, other state agencies, forest industries and other organizations:

"The United States is going to need much more wood than it is now growing. National consumption of all timber products in 1952 was estimated at 49 billion board feet. Potential demand for 1975 is estimated at 60 billion board feet, and potential demand in the year 2000 is estimated at 95 billion board feet. Lumber used per person will continue to decline, but the use of paper and other forms of wood will continue high.

"The demand for timber will grow because the United States is growing so rapidly in population. The forecaster agrees that the United States may expect a population by 1975 of 210 million; by the year 2000, 275 million.

"The total net growth for the Douglas-fir region of Western Oregon and Western Washington was reported 5.15 billion board feet. The total cut for the region was reported as being 12.2 billion board feet."

The committee emphasizes that these facts should not be forgotten by the people who own woodlots.

HOW TO KNOW VALUES

Many owners of small timber tracts have sold their products at only a fraction of their true value. The principal reason has been that they just haven't determined the true value or potential value of the timber.

There are many ways of getting assistance in the management, evaluation or in the sale of timber products. The State Forester's Office in Salem has farm foresters, the Extension Service of Oregon State College has help available through the county Extension office, soil conservation districts have foresters available, and there are private foresters who can and will develop a complete management program.

The committee presents the following actual case as an argument for woodlot owners to know what they actually have in the way of timber resources.

A farmer in the Sweet Home area had placed a tentative value of \$20,000 on his 160 acre farm, but before making any commitment to sell decided to have R. H. Mealey, a member of the farm forestry committee, make a complete inventory of the farm.

Mr. Mealey went on the property and in three days time completed a timber survey may at a cost of \$130.00.

The map tells at a glance what the timber resources of this farm actually are. It can be used to develop a definite management program if the owner decides to keep the property.

Since the inventory was completed, the owner has received three offers that greatly exceeded the original estimated value.

Here is a case where spending \$130.00 made several thousand dollars

Premature Cutting Lowers Yields

Much of Linn county's second-growth Douglas-fir is being cut at an age when it is coming into maximum production. This table illustrates this fact:

Age of stand	Yield	Yield
	Cords	Board feet
40 years -----	48	5,400
60 years -----	91	26,500
80 years -----	120	47,800

This shows that the yield at 60 years was 5 times that at 40 years and the yield at 80 years was almost double that at 60 years.

MANAGEMENT PAYS

A timber owner doesn't have to wait 50 to 80 years to harvest a crop from timberland. Some products can be sold right along while the young trees are growing into saw logs.

Young forests can be grouped into three classes: First, seedlings and saplings; second, slightly larger trees, or poles; and third, trees of saw log size.

From the seedling and sapling stand the owner can harvest Christmas trees and posts and can start a program of pruning.

From a 35-year-old forest of poles the owner has a real opportunity to start a good thinning and pruning program. He can harvest fence posts, fuel, poles, piling, and small saw logs. The trees released by thinning will respond and on a fairly good site will produce from 500 to 1,000 board feet of lumber per acre each year. The stand can be thinned every 5 years to the time decided upon to clear out. Under this program, the landowner can have a good annual income and still end up with far more merchantable timber of superior quality.

The committee calls attention to the bulletin, "Your Trees—A Crop, How to Grow and Harvest Them in the Douglas-fir Region." Copies of this bulletin are available from the State Forester's Office in Salem, or from your County Extension agent.

CHRISTMAS TREE PRODUCTION

The growing of good quality Christmas trees is increasingly becoming an important enterprise in Linn county. Many landowners are becoming interested—some are managing natural stands while others are purchasing seedlings and making plantings.

The person deciding to go into the Christmas tree business should be sure that the location and soil are suitable for the production of quality trees. Some soils and locations are TOO good to produce the kind of tree that will bring a premium. In general, the slow growing sites are the ones to select.

The committee recommends that landowners planting Christmas tree plantations strive for a variety such as Douglas-fir, Noble fir, Grand fir, and Austrian pine.

Raising Christmas trees for Profit, a Northwest Cooperative Extension Publication, is an excellent bulletin. Copies can be obtained from the County Extension office.

The committee recommends that growers seriously consider the organization of a cooperative marketing organization for their Christmas trees. Steps must be developed to prevent poaching of Christmas trees.

A.S.C. FORESTRY PRACTICES

Landowners planting trees or developing a management program are advised to investigate the forestry practices offered under the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program. Details can be secured from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office in the courthouse at Albany.

EROSION CONTROL

Erosion is becoming a serious problem on all forest lands. The committee encourages landowners to provide adequate controls on all cutover lands and to protect all logging and cat roads. A light seeding of perennial grasses on cutover lands, a heavy seeding of perennial grasses on logging and cat roads, and ade-

quate drainage of all logging and cat roads will help stop erosion.

The committee commends the U. S. Forest Service for their methods of protecting streams in their logging operations. Careless logging by private operators has caused serious flood damage in many streams due to jams caused by logging debris. A log jam in the Calapooia River above Brownville is a good example of what can happen.

DEMONSTRATIONS

It is recommended that the Extension Service of Oregon State College and the State Forester's office continue to cooperate with the farm forestry committee in holding demonstrations dealing with Christmas tree farming and all phases of forest management. It is further recommended that the Extension Service develop financial statements on cooperator's demonstration woodlots just as soon as the projects have progressed to that point.

TAXES

The present system of taxing timber lands in Linn county encourages proper forest management. However, efforts are being made in some counties to make radical changes that would work to the disadvantage of good forest management. As a result, the committee recommends that Linn county timber owners guard against any movement that will raise taxes to the point where good forest management can't be practiced.

FOREST PRODUCTS HARVEST TAX AND REFORESTATION LANDS

There is a difference between the Forest Products Harvest Tax and Reforestation Lands:

The Forest Products Harvest Tax is levied on all forest products harvested, but the first 25,000 board feet harvested annually are exempt. This money is used for research, fire protection, and reforestation.

The Reforestation Land Act provides that cutover lands can be classified as reforestation lands. The lands so classified pay 5 cents per acre each year as a tax. Then, when any forest products are harvested from those acres, the owner must pay 1½ percent of the sale value to the county treasurer.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Assistance in farm forestry can be secured from the following public agencies:

1. County Extension Service and Oregon State College
2. State Forester's Office
3. Soil Conservation Districts

DAIRY COMMITTEE

GENERAL SITUATION

Increased population and higher standards of living for wage earning families has increased the consumption of dairy products. Increased production per cow has more than kept pace with this increased consumption.

Linn county, from a peak year in 1943 with 16,600 cows, has declined to 11,100 cows in 1956. The number of Grade A dairy farms has decreased from 306 in 1950 to 285 in 1955. Production in Dairy-Herd-Improvement Association herds has increased during this period approximately 800 pounds of milk and 25 pounds of milk fat per cow.

Demand for dairy products can be expected to increase slightly each year. Government school support programs and milk industry promotion and advertising has helped. Population in the West Coast states is expected to increase 2 to 4 percent per year, which can mean increased use of dairy products.

Economy and efficiency of milk production will continue to be the important factor for dairymen to consider. Dairymen need more efficient cows—with greater capacity for using home-grown roughage, longer life to reduce cost of replacements, and capable of heavier production.

FORAGE PROGRAM

Pasture, hay, and silage are important for forage in Linn county.

Pasture is a very important crop to the dairymen. The committee foresees more intensive use of irrigated pasture including an increase in the use of the daily ration program as a means of producing more milk per acre.

Hay quality is a problem even with the increased speed with which hay can be handled. The committee recommends increasing the silage program on dairy farms. An all-silage program may be feasible in some instances. Some consideration must be given to green-chop program for summer feed or a supplement to an all-silage program.

The roughage program will fill the increasing needs of dairymen in Linn county for quality feed. The committee feels that more research should be done on costs of feed production for various feed programs.

SIRE PROGRAM

The committee commends the artificial breeders organizations for the forward look these groups are taking. The groups are making proved sires and sires having a high-transmitting index available to dairymen who could not afford to purchase sires of this quality. The committee recognizes the need for good sires and recommends that dairymen with high-producing, registered dairy stock maintain records of production as a source for bulls to be used in the artificial program.

PRODUCTION TESTING

Production testing in Linn county should include the D.H.I.A. program in the present form. This includes the "Standard" plan and the "owner-sampler" plan and a "weigh a day" plan. The first two plans are now in use in the county. The "weigh a day" plan provides for milk weights only, the milk to be weighed from each individual cow once a month by the dairyman, with an occasional milk fat test so some form of production testing will be more readily available to all herds in the area.

The committee feels that production testing is a very important part of the overall management program that must be undertaken to have a successful dairy operation.

HERD MANAGEMENT

The committee feels that dairying is a sound enterprise for Linn county and that present dairy cows numbers should be maintained. The future of the Linn county dairy industry depends entirely on efficient production and management.

Management is an individual problem, based on number of animals, type of forage program possible, and good farm records.

The committee believes that a properly managed family operation of 20 to 30 cows with enough acreage to produce the required forage, can produce a good income. Although emphasis is toward the large herd the committee feels that production per cow is most important. A 20-cow herd with high production per cow will produce more net income than a larger herd with lower production per cow. Efficient production per cow is more important than volume production. Increased costs and the lack of dependable labor put emphasis on automatic feeders, pipeline milkers, bulk tanks, and other labor-saving inventions.

Herd management must include disease control. Mastitis is still the number one problem in the county. Acetonemia, hoof rot, brucellosis, and various other diseases are all problems in efficient management. Antibiotics are useful in the control of mastitis, but prevention through sanitation and good management is most important. More research needs to be done on this most costly disease.

Brucellosis and tuberculosis are relatively non-existent in Linn county dairy animals. However, the committee goes on record favoring a step up in the overall testing program as a means of having Linn county declared a certified brucellosis free area.

MARKETS AND MARKETING

Linn county dairymen have as major markets, Eugene, Portland, Salem, Albany, Lebanon, and Corvallis. Although adequate market facilities are available, there are marketing problems brought about by the number of marketing areas.

The committee feels that dairymen should have more control over the pricing and marketing of their product. The committee recommends an educational program on marketing pools and methods.

The committee recognizes the increased interest of dairymen in the promotion and sale of their products as evidenced by the increased activity of the Dairy Council and Dairy Products Commission. The committee recommends the con-

tinuance of this program on a national, state and local level.

The committee recommends—

- * More intensive use of pastures, grasses, and legumes based on research and field trials to obtain the maximum economical yield of milk per acre.

- * More extensive use of good silage.

- * Continued use of sires, proved and bred for higher production in private and artificial breeding programs, and continued development of good breeding herds in all breeds of dairy cattle.

- * That production testing programs be expanded whenever possible.

- * A continued program for general quality improvement of dairy products. All milk deliveries received at plants, processing for human consumption, should be of a quality suitable to go into bottles, cheese, ice cream, or any other dairy product for human food.

- * The marketing of dairy products in the state be aided by continuous, well planned advertising and educational program supported financially by both producers and processors.

- * That the State Department of Agriculture instigate a more thorough training program for new employees who are to serve as dairy inspectors. The committee feels that inspectors should serve as a source of aid and advice to the dairyman.

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Trends and Present Conditions

The percentage of total farm income derived from livestock has shown a constant decline since the 1945 county planning conference. This decline has resulted primarily from a continued emphasis on forage seed production along with reduction in price received for meat animals rather than a decrease in animal numbers. Currently only 10.8 percent of the income is from meat animals and wool as compared with 17.12 percent from dairy products and 26.2 percent from seed crops.

The 1954 census showed 57,781 sheep, 4,500 beef cows 2 years and over, and 1,542 brood sows 6 months and over on Linn county farms. This represents slight reductions in sheep and hogs from 1945, but is a 100 percent increase in beef cows.

SHEEP

The current sheep population seems adequate. If any expansion is made, it should be in connection with grass seed operation for better utilization of feed stuffs.

Breeding flocks have a definite place but should be confined to home ranch to assure stable feed supply. During the past several years the feeder lamb program has expanded. Where the practice of bringing outside feeder lambs in is followed, it should be done away from the breeding flock. The potential disease and parasite problem is too great to risk contamination of the home flock. Any feeder program must be guided by available pasture.

The committee suggests that experimental work be continued on dry-lot feeding of sheep.

Major problem of the sheep industry is parasite and worm control. Proper management practices offer the best relief. These practices include rotational grazing, phenothiazine or copper sulfate drenches, and fluking with capsules or pills.

A substantial part of the income from sheep is the wool clip. Yet a large amount of the wool is graded down because of improper care and handling. The committee urges an educational program on proper handling of wool.

Current market demands are for a smaller size fat lamb, 90 to 110 pounds. Some breeds might be crossbred with smaller type rams. The importance of high quality rams and keeping production records on all ewes cannot be over-emphasized.

The committee questions the advisability of a straight sheep operation. If undertaken, however, they feel sufficient facilities and feed should be available for at least 300 ewes.

BEEF CATTLE

The increase in beef cow numbers has come largely on the valley floor. Any further increases should be made with caution. It is recommended the beef cattle

be located on farms having an adequate feed program.

The Agricultural Experiment Station is urged to conduct additional work on the place of screenings in livestock feeds.

Feeder cattle operations have increased considerably during the past few years. The committee believes that fall purchase of feeders is necessary. However, they feel there is opportunity for greater numbers to be wintered through and then fattened on either pasture or green chop with supplemental feed. Silage has a definite place in any feeder program. Any fattening program conducted during the winter months needs adequate physical facilities, especially sheds or roofs over feeding areas. Operators should always take full advantage of wintering stock on silage and hay—but especially in periods of low prices.

Stomach-worm infections appear to be on the increase. Suggested control include rotational grazing, phenothiazine drench. The committee compliments the College on its work in this field and encourages continued effort to develop control measures.

Scours and pneumonia are ever reoccurring problems. Operators need to be continually on the lookout for signs of these disturbances. Management is important, but the search for better medications should continue.

The T.B. and brucellosis testing program is not, as yet, reaching all of the eligible animals in the county. Current figures indicate that in 1954, 21,647 head of cattle were eligible for test, with 13,675 tested. It is presumed that those not tested were largely one and two cow locations and beef herds. This situation merits close study and a planned course of action.

Approximately 25 percent of the livers from cattle slaughtered in Linn county are condemned as fluky. With current demand for liver, this results in a material loss of edible meat. Some slaughterers are docking as much as 50c per 100 pounds for cattle from known fluky areas. Anyone with ground subject to infection should consider control practices.

Current market demands need to be considered seriously by producers. Cattle should be marketed at point of maximum net return rather than feeding to higher grades.

The committee feels that an operation devoted entirely to beef would need to be big enough to produce feed for 100 cows and their offspring.

HOGS

Linn county is still a hog importing area. Increase in numbers, however can be recommended only with the provision that such increase come only when the price of feed grains is in proper balance with the price of hogs.

Hogs have a place as a means of farm diversification. To be financially profitable, however, there needs to be pasture available. Hogs also provide a means of marketing low grade or surplus farm grains.

Proper sanitation and management are essential in any hog enterprise.

Currently a breeding program that allows selling of weaners or market hogs appears to be more practical than a straight feeder pig operation. Quality breeding stock are very scarce, especially the type hogs now demanded by the market. Numerous new breeds that show possibilities are being introduced.

A potential disease problem is rhinitis. It is in some Linn county herds. The committee recommends extensive research be conducted to determine a method of diagnosis and control.

The committee questions advisability of an enterprise devoted exclusively to hog production.

Major points of emphasis

- * Increased parasite and worm control in sheep.
- * Continued research on dry lot feeding of feeder lambs.
- * Opportunity to winter cattle through on dry lot with silage and hay to be fattened on lush spring pastures plus supplemental graining.
- * Added research and emphasis on stomach worms in cattle.
- * Review of T.B. and Bangs testing program to determine satisfactory method of including all animals.
- * More research on rhinitis in hogs.

POULTRY COMMITTEE

Chickens

The demand for all kinds of poultry products during World War II resulted in a 50 percent increase in production in the United States, although the Pacific Coast did not increase production as much as some other areas. During the past 15 to 20 years Oregon has changed from a poultry exporting area to an importing area. Part of this change can be attributed to an increase in population and increased consumption of poultry products.

In 1954 we ate 18 per cent more eggs than we produced in Oregon. About 7 percent of the eggs we eat are dried or frozen eggs in cake mixes, ice cream, and other products. At the same time, we use about 7 percent of our Oregon eggs for hatching, including hatching eggs exported. Most Linn county hatching eggs are exported to California, mostly for the broiler industry.

In 1954 we ate 19 percent more broilers than we produced; however, in 1955 we had a substantial increase in broiler production which means production is catching up with consumption. The competition is keen from outside sources in broiler production and the margin of profit is narrow.

As the Pacific Coast has changed from an exporting to an importing area, the poultry industry should be able to compete and maintain the present poultry population. To do this, producers must continue to improve the quality of poultry products and encourage the sale of their products.

Oregon has a good reputation for the production of hatching eggs. Recent trends indicate that a good opportunity exists for the poultryman to continue the production of high quality hatching eggs.

POPULAR BREEDS

The popular breeds in Linn county are White Leghorns for egg production and the New Hampshire, White Rocks and Crossbreeds for hatching egg production.

QUALITY AND SIZE OF FLOCK

Quality of poultry products are necessary if Linn county producers are going to stay in business and make a profit. The size of flock is important in the production of quality eggs, since quality involves proper handling equipment and frequent marketing. The committee recommends 25 chickens or less for a family flock with a minimum of 500 hens for the family wanting a side-line cash income enterprise and a minimum of 3,500 hens where egg production is to be a major enterprise.

Quality stock must be emphasized. It is recommended that chicks come from stock that has been bred to live and produce long. Freedom from disease and the inherited ability of remaining disease free is very important.

MANAGEMENT

Brooding trouble can largely be eliminated if the number of chicks in one group can be limited to 300 to 350. It is a good practice to have the brooder house located as far as possible from the laying house in order to prevent the spread of disease.

It is a good practice, where possible, to replace 100 percent of the laying flock each year of lay. A laying hen will decrease in egg production from 20 to 25 percent in each successive year of lay. Conditions are best when pullets are separated from older birds. Gathering eggs from 3 to 4 times a day and holding them at a temperature of 50 to 60 degrees with a relative humidity above 85 percent is recommended. Mechanical coolers with humidifiers could be used to a great advantage on most poultry operations.

The committee believes that the present outlook is favorable for the production of poultry and poultry products; however, because of the high cost of buildings, materials and feeds, the inexperienced operator should work with an experienced operator before embarking on a poultry venture of his own.

TURKEYS

General Trends and Outlook in Turkey Production

The turkey industry of Linn county must be considered in relation to the status of the entire industry. Linn county produces market birds, hatching eggs, and poults for out of state buyers. The recommendations of the committee provide

some excellent basis for economical turkey production in the future.

Oregon ranks third in the 11 western states in turkey production. In 1945 Oregon's crop was 2,605,000 birds; in 1955 Oregon produced a total of 1,512,000; however, the intentions for 1956 show a 20 percent increase in heavy birds and a 5 percent increase in light birds. In Linn county the 1945 production of 235,000 birds has fallen to 115,000 turkeys in 1955.

TURKEY NUMBERS

For 1956 the committee favors keeping the present numbers in Linn county. However, state-wide, Oregon produces 12 pounds of turkey per person. The U. S. consumption per person is 4.5 pounds. This indicates we are still producing a surplus. However, the army buys a large volume of turkey on the Pacific Coast and we also export turkey to Canada, Alaska, and the Hawaiian Islands. Oregon also sells turkeys to Washington, Idaho, and Montana, which are deficiency states. These markets help to bring our production in line with consumption. As the poulation continues to grow on the Pacific Coast it will improve our turkey marketing program.

Trends Regarding Size and Type of Birds

Small, medium, and large turkeys are now being produced; this balance trend should be encouraged to meet consumer demands. From the standpoint of the producer, it is most economical to produce the larger birds since they make the most profitable gains. In the future it is anticipated that more turkeys will be sold cut up, pre-packaged, precooked and also in the form of turkey rolls.

Brooding and Rearing Poult

Sanitary equipment and modern brooder houses with the most essential labor saving devices are necessary for successful turkey production. Brooding and rearing operations should be entirely isolated from older birds to prevent the spread of disease.

Adequate light, heat, ventilation, feeding, and watering devices are necessary. Portable range equipment helps control disease, prevents contaminations, avoids killing out green feeds, and obtains better distribution of fertilizer. Turkeys can be raised satisfactorily on range or in confinement.

Management Problems

The committee was agreed that the experienced operator, with the help he would ordinarily get from his family, should raise a minimum of 3,500 market turkeys and carry over 700 to 750 breeder hens each year. This is considered an economic program for the average experienced producer. Linn county turkey growers are urged to carry breeding hens as well as market turkeys to have a year-around operation.

Use labor-saving devices for greater profits. Keep at least 2 acres for every 100 turkeys maintained. Rotate to avoid contamination. If range is available, green feed can be used to reduce feed costs.

Breeder birds should be kept out of the mud during the fall and winter months, with pole sheds or the liberal amounts of sawdust or shavings. In some cases a good sod would serve the same purpose.

Purchasing Poult

Poult of good quality are the first essential in successful brooding. This means poult should be from vigorous, broad breasted, well balanced, early maturing stock, and free from transmittible diseases, especially pullorum and paratyphoid.

Most experienced growers keep their breeding stock or depend on reliable breeders or hatcherymen for their poult.

The committee recommends producers maintain their own breeding flock. However, if the purchase of poult be necessary they should be purchased from Oregon hatcheries, cooperating fully with Oregon's Turkey Improvement Association.

Turkey Breeding Stock

Breeding stock should be selected before marketing, keeping only broadbreast-

ed, early maturing, well balanced, active, and are disease free birds.

The committee feels that improvement of stock in Linn county will come through a master breeding plan including pedigree plans of mating. In some cases cross mating of strains or in other cases some inbreeding to set a desirable characteristic in a strain may be advisable. Improved fertility, hatchability, livability, and maintenance of disease-free flocks all need attention in breeding flocks.

The poultry committee recommends:

* That we support and cooperate with the Agricultural Experiment Station in their work on turkey and chicken management and breeding research.

* That we support and cooperate with the Oregon State College poultry specialists and the Linn County Extension staff in the poultry education program.

* Strict sanitation and disease control programs for all phases of the poultry industry.

* Cooperation in state and national consumer education programs on a county level. It is further recommended that contributions be made from all phases of the poultry industry to carry out these promotional programs.

HOME AND COMMUNITY LIVING

The Farm Home and Rural Life Committee has considered the progress made in Linn county during the past 10 years in home and community living.

Population and Farm Conveniences, Linn County—1940-1954

Type of farm and conveniences	1940	1950	1954
Total county population	30,485	54,317	60,120*
Urban	8,385	19,608	24,591!
Rural non-farm	7,985	21,782	22,782!
Rural farm	14,115	12,927	12,747!
Total number of farms	3,325	3,369	3,196
Number having electricity	1,559	3,114	3,068
Number have telephones	1,513	1,928	2,342
Number having running water	1,716	2,791	2,918
Number having home freezers	Not reported	619	1,471
Number having automobiles	2,766	2,728	2,736

* 1955 figure—Geo M. Henderson, First National bank of Portland, estimates Linn county's population in 1975 will be 95,000 people (in "The Place of Forest Products in Oregon's Future Economy")

! Estimated.

Note that the trend toward larger farms, with less people living on farms; but there is also a trend toward people living on small suburban acreages, which increases the population living outside towns and cities.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The committee feels that identification of rural residents with a community group is important for really satisfactory living. However, any group is dependent on good leadership and the ability of members to cooperate fully. There is a continuing need for assistance in leadership development of both youth and adults. Leaders need to learn, among other skills, how to involve many people in order to gain their interest and make possible improvements in our communities.

The committee feels that rural organizations, community clubs of various kinds, and also the rural church, can make many contributions to help rural and suburban living become more satisfying and creative. Clubs and farm and home organizations should be encouraged to coordinate their programs so as not to duplicate efforts. Churches in rural areas are developing programs that fit the needs of the people in their communities and enrich their lives spiritually. In order to further increase wholesome community activities and friendly neighborhood relationships, every rural church should continually strive to be community-wide in its scope of influence and fellowship. Rural church family nights have been successful, with more churches engaging in this activity than formerly.

Less than one-fourth of the people in Linn County hold church membership. Membership in 1952 was 22.7 percent compared to 23.2 percent for the state, which, in itself, is low. (These figures are from a survey conducted by the Oregon Council of Churches.) Total church membership was 12,350 in 1952; of this number, 1,-

474 were members of local rural churches (with towns of 2,500 and under considered rural in this survey)—and it is estimated that 35 percent of urban church membership is made up of rural people. As an aid in working on problems largely rural in nature, and in increasing church membership in rural areas, it is suggested that a County Ministerial Association might be formed. This Association of rural ministers could, with concerted effort, work effectively on problems sometimes untouched by city ministerial groups.

The committee suggests that churches and schools increase educational stress on child psychology, mental as well as spiritual health, emotional maturity, and the sacredness of marriage and family relationships. The divorce rate in Linn county in 1955 was 194, against 371 marriages. Educational emphasis on good human relationships and high moral character should start at an early age. Television, radio and movies are an important influence; therefore high quality programs and advertising should be encouraged by everyone.

The committee recommends:

- * That representatives of various organizations come together to plan, for leadership development meetings to be conducted in the county.

- * A County Ministerial Association as an approach to the solution of various church problems in our fast-growing county.

- * Increased educational emphasis in churches and schools on basic human relationships as an approach to the solution of such community problems as divorce and juvenile delinquency. High grade TV and radio programs should be encouraged.

Schools

In the past 10 years the people of Linn county have made many improvements in their educational facilities. In 1945 there were 99 one and two-room elementary schools in the county. Now this number has been reduced to 19 by consolidation. During this 10-year period more than 220 elementary school rooms have been added either by new buildings or additions to old buildings. One union high school has been added. The school population in 1945 totaled 8,930 pupils and in 1955 increased to 14,216. The projected increase in population in the coming years will call for additional facilities. The cost of our schools has risen along with the number of pupils. The special taxes in 1945 were \$377,936.73, as compared to \$1,236,186.03 at the present time. A county-wide tax study group is currently examining the tax structure in relation to education as well as other problems.

There is a need for well-qualified teachers, especially in the fields of music, home economics, and primary teaching. It is recommended that the hiring of teacher's aides be considered, as this plan has been working well in other parts of the country since its inception in Bay City, Michigan. One rural school in Linn county is planning to employ a teacher's aide next year. Along with freeing a teacher of many non-teaching duties so that she can do her teaching job more effectively with a large number of children, this plan has proved effective in teacher recruitment, with many teacher's aides going on to get teaching certificates. It might have the added advantage of giving employment to qualified mothers who need outside income but who have children with whom they should be at home before and after school hours.

There is also a need for better understanding between the teachers and parents. One method of getting this improvement could be through conferences—which is being tried at the present time. A concerted effort on the part of parents to give the teachers a feeling of high status in the community would encourage more people to enter the teaching profession.

Consolidation of schools has given rise to problems in transportation. The shorter school hours of primary pupils presents a difficulty. Also, long bus routes mean many children leave home very early in the morning and return late in the afternoon. The committee feels that efforts should be made to improve this situation. The committee suggests an examination be made of the place of after-school sports and other activities in our educational system. If they are found to be desirable, then consideration should be given to the fact that many rural students are not able to take part unless their parents are able to provide extra transportation.

Adult education in Linn county is available at the high schools through night classes. Not only vocational education but also classes in the creative arts are possible. Some courses for college credit are available.

The public school system does not provide kindergarten education in any town in Linn county. Although facilities for kindergartens would increase the cost of public school education, the taxpayers might want to consider the value to their children of enriching group experiences at the age when most children are in need of and benefited greatly by such activities. Private schools cannot fill this need adequately for all the children in the age group.

In some schools the school lunch program might be better planned to make this program more attractive. There is also a need for educating parents to see the advantages of a hot lunch and their responsibility in making such a hot lunch program financially feasible. Milk machines are recommended for all schools, and also citrus fruit dispensers.

The committee recommends:

That the problem of teacher recruitment might be approached through the use of teachers' aides and also through increased recognition of the value of the teaching profession by members of the community.

That a critical examination be made of the place of after-school sports and other activities in our total education program.

That consideration be given to the values of public school kindergartens.

Improvements be made in the school lunch program and that dispensers for nutritionally valuable foods replace soft drink dispensers.

HEALTH FACILITIES

Health clinics are held in the various schools of the county for examinations of pre-school children before they enter the first grade. An immunization program for school children is carried on by the County Health Department. Immunization shots are also given in the office of the Health Department on Friday afternoons.

Now that the Salk polio vaccine is available, it is recommended that all children through 15 years of age and pregnant women avail themselves of this protection.

In 1955 chest X-rays for tuberculosis were given to a 40.4 percent of the people over 16 years of age. There are now 88 cases of tuberculosis in the county with 169 close contacts to be followed by the Health Department. A continuing effort should be made to encourage chest X-rays.

The committee feels there is a need for education on health-insurance plans to enable people to analyze the various types intelligently. Home nursing and first aid training should be encouraged; safety and accident-prevention programs should continue to be promoted. Both children and adults need traffic safety education, as pedestrians and drivers. Another field for continuous education is water safety and swimming instruction.

Since over 10 percent of the population of Linn county at the present time is over sixty years of age, and this proportion may become greater in the future, the problems of the older people in our community need consideration. The adequacy of homes for the aged and also nursing homes might be investigated, along with the opportunities for satisfying leisure time activities.

The committee recommends:

That young doctors and dentists be encouraged to set up practices in Linn county, especially in the rural areas.

That preventive measures, such as chest X-rays for tuberculosis and Salk vaccine for polio be utilized to the utmost.

That aid in analyzing health insurances be given.

That first aid, home nursing, and safety education be encouraged.

That investigation be made of the problems of our older people and the adequacy of our present facilities.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

Children and adults alike should exercise their own initiative in exploring the fields of learning rather than being dependent on the often inadequate or biased offerings of television and radio. With this in mind, a subcommittee of the Farm

Home and Rural Life Committee studied the library needs for the county. They found that there is no public library for 60 percent of our Linn county people.

As a result of the work of this subcommittee, the Friends of the Linn County Library was organized April 29, 1953. Their purpose was to work toward the establishment of a county library with bookmobile service for Linn county residents. With a bookmobile, people living on farms and in small communities would have equal opportunity in obtaining information and good reading. The plan called for the headquarters for a public library to be in Albany where the basic library already built up would be made available for everyone. The State library offered the loan of 3,000 books to help the bookmobile get started. The books in a county library would be available to small city libraries, to rural schools and communities, as well as to individuals. The County Library measure was entered on the ballot November 2, 1954, to be voted on by the people in order to raise the \$37,500 considered necessary. This money would have come from a $\frac{3}{4}$ mill levy on the assessed valuation of property. A family paying \$247.00 total taxes would have had added only \$1.98, which would have enabled the entire family to check out several books every two weeks and to enjoy other library services. In spite of the small cost, the measure was voted down. It is felt that perhaps many people did not understand the advantages which would have accrued to them by means of this county library service, and that efforts might be made again to have this measure passed.

VOTING

Since democracy is dependent upon the participation of its citizenry, attention should be given to the voting habits of our residents. According to the county record, an average of slightly over 60 percent vote except when there is a presidential election, when an average of 80 percent vote. The committee feels that people should continue to be encouraged to register and vote, but that great emphasis should be placed upon having an informed vote. Impartial explanation of the voting issues should be provided at meetings and in mass media. Also wording of the issues on the ballot is of such importance that this wording should be checked very carefully to be sure the true issue is clearly stated.

RECORD KEEPING AND MANAGEMENT

Farm and Home record keeping is important. A bookkeeping course tailored to farm and home records might be helpful. Social security is now a complicating factor in record keeping and help with this is needed. Farm and Home record books can be kept separately. People not engaged in agricultural pursuits might also be interested in securing help from County Extension personnel with home records, and with budgeting problems.

The committee feels that consumer education is needed in clothing, foods, home furnishings, and household management. People need help in evaluating and sales of various kinds. There is also need for continued teaching in clothing construction, food preparation, and making home furnishings. Special classes for young homemakers might fill a definite need.

EMPLOYMENT

The current low status of farm income makes it necessary for many families to supplement their incomes. The State Employment Service is willing to work on job development to help the mothers of school-age children find employment with hours that will fit the children's school hours. Registration of part-time workers and seasonal jobs is also handled by the service.

People with employment problems should make use of the services offered by the State Employment Office.

YOUTH ACTIVITY SURVEY

This survey was prepared at the suggestion of the Linn County Agricultural Planning Council in connection with the 1956 economic conference. At the 1946 conference the council had a special committee that considered only 4-H club work. However, with our increased population and our large increase in rural non-farm people, many of whom have youngsters interested in youth activities other than 4-H club work, it seemed desirable to take a complete look at our entire youth program of the county. As a result, a meeting was arranged with representatives of 4-H Clubs, the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Albany city recreational program, and the county school superintendent's office.

At this original meeting, a survey form was developed to determine actual and potential participation in organized youth groups and recreational programs. Through the cooperation of the county school superintendent's office, this form was sent to all school teachers in the county. The survey was conducted by each teacher in his or her home room and the survey forms were returned to the superintendent's office. They were then tabulated by the County Extension office and are the basis for conclusions listed in this report.

As with any survey, there were numerous shortcomings. Some of these include: 1. The fact that the date listed for potential membership is based on September school enrollment figures. Since some population is transient it is impossible to have exact numbers. 2. In a few instances children may have recorded idle wishing as actual membership and in other cases a dissatisfied experience may have resulted in not claiming membership in the organization; 3. Only Albany has a supervised year-round recreational program so the validity of answers to this section of the survey in other communities is somewhat questionable; 4. Not all youth groups accept members in the second grade, however, since some do it was necessary to use the second grade in compiling potential membership; 5. These are not the only available youth activities. High school youngsters participate in other activities such as fraternal clubs, as well as all school clubs. However, for the sake of this survey, it was confined to the four nation-wide youth organizations and the recreational programs.

To date approximately 92 percent of the youngsters of the county have been reported on through the survey. The other 8 percent have not been reported by their school teachers, as yet. The results were tabulated according to high school districts and grade levels. The potential is based upon 2nd through 12th grade enrollments. In the area tabulation, each district represents the grade schools that would ultimately go to this high school, as well as the high school itself. Where a school has not reported, its enrollment was not included. Therefore, the percentages shown are based on the number being reached.

Youth Activities by Area

School District	Potential membership	Number of different youngsters reached	Portion of potential Percent
Albany	2,921	1,076	36.8
Shedd	155	58	37.4
Stayton	191	100	52.4
Gates	114	64	56.1
Corvallis	32	17	53.0
Scio	479	93	19.4
Mill City	362	127	35.1
Halsey	177	49	27.6
Lebanon	2,949	653	22.1
Harrisburg	261	83	31.8
Brownsville	339	108	31.8
Sweet Home	2,449	620	25.3
Total	10,429	3,048	29. +

Youth Activities by Grade

Grade	Potential	Different youngsters reached	Portion of potential Percent
2 - 3 - 4	3,747	1,191	31.5
5 - 6	1,982	885	44.6
7 - 8	1,716	625	36.4
High School	2,984	357	11.6
Total	10,429	3,048	29. +

While the results of this survey are not absolute, the figures are accurate enough to draw some definite conclusions. Youth agencies now organized and active in the county are doing a good job with their limited financial program and physical staff.

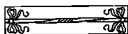
Some of the conclusions: 1. Rural living no longer indicates any inequality in opportunity to participate in youth programs; 2. High schools should give equal status to the established youth groups of a community as to the extra curricular activities sponsored by the school. 3. Much more volunteer local leadership is needed. In all communities there is need for more leaders yet in almost all communities all seemingly available volunteer leadership is now being used; 4. Individual families need to accept more responsibility in encouraging youth programs. Mother and dad need to take an active interest in their youngsters and the program that their youngsters are conducting; 5. Constant study of youth programs. Mother and dad need to take an active interest in their youngsters and conditions; 6. Community organizations and service clubs need to be more aware of youth group needs; 7. A county-wide youth council might be formed to better acquaint the public with services available. Possible methods would include developing a directory of organizations and a list of persons to contact for information, and developing brochure for distribution to schools and others.

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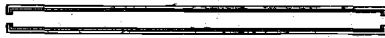
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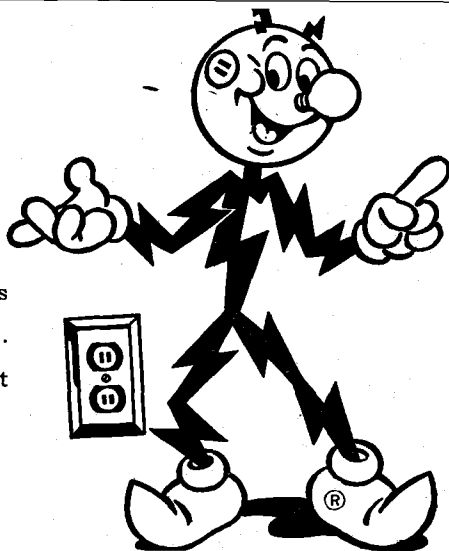
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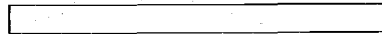
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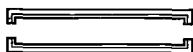
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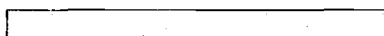
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