Report of the
Wallowa County
Agricultural Economic Conference
Enterprise, Oregon
March 17 and 18, 1927

Suggesting an
Agricultural Program
for
Wallowa County

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Wallowa County Farm and Business Groups, Oregon Agricultural College and United States Department of Agriculture, cooperating.
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</table>
FOREWORD

This bulletin contains the findings and recommendations of the Wallowa County Agricultural Economic conference held in the County Court-house at Enterprise on March 17 and 18, 1927. More than 100 representative stockmen and ranchers, together with a few business men participated in the event.

The conference was one of a series scheduled during the season of 1926 and 1927 as a sequel to the State economic conference which was held at Oregon Agricultural College in 1924. Its purpose might be briefly stated as an effort to inventory the present status of agriculture in Wallowa County, analyze the balance between production and market demands, and arrive at conclusions that might form the basis for the best development of local agriculture.

That such a conference should be held in the county was decided in early February by a committee of representative ranchers and stockmen from practically every community. This committee investigated the accomplishments of similar conferences held in some 20 other counties in Oregon and unanimously decided that such an event would be worthwhile in Wallowa county.

The conference was organized along commodity lines, covering the following major sources of agricultural income: Livestock, dairying, farm crops, and poultry. Other groups included in the conference were rodent control, land settlement, and boys' and girls' club work. While committees were named to make a special study of the problems affecting these various groups, many others besides those named on committees took part in the committee discussions and aided in the ultimate findings.

Committees representing these groups were selected by the general committee of 30, in advance of the conference. Statements of findings and recommendations were prepared and submitted to the general conference in the form of reports. These were considered and adopted.

Taken together, the conference reports constitute a foundation for a county agricultural program.

The conference was a beginning. Its real value depends upon the extent to which communities, organizations and individuals make use of its findings. These reports, developed by practical and successful Wallowa County producers, will form the basis for the work of the Wallowa County agricultural agent. It is assumed that these reports will require correction and amendment as conditions change and new facts are developed.

George R. Tilton, Lostine, was selected as general chairman, and
the chairman of the various groups were as follows: Rodent Control Group, Fred Ranes; Dairy Group, Paul Wilson; Livestock Group, J. H. Dobbin; Farm Crops Group, T. G. Johnson; Poultry Group, H. O. Harmon; Boys' and Girls' Club Group, E. J. Smith; Land Settlement Group, A. C. Miller.

Publication of this report was made possible by the cooperation and financial support of the Wallowa County Wool Growers' Association, the Record Chieftain and the County Agent's office.
Acres in Farms Have Steadily Increased

Since 1890, the total acres in Wallowa County farms have increased with each census period. Number of farms also increased each decade until 1920 and then fell off, according to 1925 census figures.

TABLE NO. I.

Acres in Farms and Number of Farms 1890 to 1925 U. S. Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Improved</th>
<th>Un-Improved</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>48,394</td>
<td>70,795</td>
<td>119,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>55,131</td>
<td>138,124</td>
<td>193,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>86,049</td>
<td>268,683</td>
<td>354,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>141,404</td>
<td>382,625</td>
<td>524,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>128,760</td>
<td>427,962</td>
<td>556,722</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Farm Property Values Show Great Growth

Farm property values in Wallowa County since 1890 are shown in Table II. Steady increase is noted up to 1920, with a rather sharp drop following that year.

**Table II.**

**FARM PROPERTY VALUES, 1890 TO 1925—U. S. CENSUS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Number Farms</th>
<th>All Farm Property</th>
<th>Land</th>
<th>Buildings</th>
<th>Implements and Machinery</th>
<th>Livestock (1)</th>
<th>Average Values per Farm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>$1,622,460</td>
<td>$938,030</td>
<td>$88,650</td>
<td>$595,780</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>2,775,356</td>
<td>$1,283,305</td>
<td>308,060</td>
<td>121,160</td>
<td>1,062,831</td>
<td>$10,699 $7,496 20.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>11,319,248</td>
<td>7,165,046</td>
<td>766,255</td>
<td>338,406</td>
<td>3,049,541</td>
<td>$20,578 15,436 29.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1,149</td>
<td>23,643,686</td>
<td>15,578,911</td>
<td>2,156,500</td>
<td>1,112,743</td>
<td>4,795,532</td>
<td>14,856 11,913 17.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>961</td>
<td>14,276,910</td>
<td>9,704,036</td>
<td>1,744,265</td>
<td>699,631</td>
<td>2,128,978</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Prior to 1920, census figures for livestock included value of poultry and bees.
Livestock Industry Is Greatest Income Producer

Sources from which the county derived its agricultural income in 1919 are shown in Table III. These figures are the latest available data on total income. Even though total income undoubtedly was much less in 1926 than in 1919, the relative importance of the various agricultural enterprises probably remained much the same as shown in the table.

TABLE III.
Income from sales of Farm Products—Year 1919 U. S. Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Percent of Total Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>$1,962,000</td>
<td>53.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>975,000</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay and Forage</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Products</td>
<td>218,917</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits and Vegetables</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry Products</td>
<td>32,043</td>
<td>.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,647,960</strong></td>
<td><strong>99.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wallowa Has Always Been Important Livestock County

Census reports since 1890 show that the livestock industry has long been an important one in this county. Table IV gives United States census figures on numbers and values of different classes of livestock.

**TABLE IV**

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT—1890 TO 1925 U. S. CENSUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>All Cattle</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Swine</th>
<th>Horses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Value</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>13,732</td>
<td>52,326</td>
<td>3,169</td>
<td>7,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>16,495</td>
<td>85,060</td>
<td>17,783</td>
<td>9,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>25,597</td>
<td>$689,950</td>
<td>224,961</td>
<td>$1,143,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>42,232</td>
<td>2,314,961</td>
<td>87,782</td>
<td>1,252,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>26,673</td>
<td>773,773</td>
<td>63,653</td>
<td>637,982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** In 1910, the number of sheep listed included 53,628 spring lambs.
The Dairy Industry Is Growing

Production of milk has shown a steady increase since 1899, according to the United States census. The figures are given in Table V.

TABLE V.
DAIRY PRODUCTION—1899, 1909, 1919 AND 1924, U. S. CENSUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Producing Cows</th>
<th>Milk Produced (gallons)</th>
<th>Production Per Cow (gallons)</th>
<th>Value of Production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>2242</td>
<td>651,888</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 43,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>3426</td>
<td>668,743</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>47,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>3671</td>
<td>1,486,917</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>272,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>4077</td>
<td>1,834,650</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>218,591</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In 1924 the number of producing cows was divided as follows: 3161 dairy cows and 916 beef cows milked.

Mortgage Debt Increased

The last three census periods have shown a mounting mortgage debt in the county.

TABLE VI
MORTGAGE STATUS OF FARM PROPERTY YEAR 1909, 1919, 1924 U. S. CENSUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1909</th>
<th>1919</th>
<th>1924</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farms free from mortgage</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farms mortgaged</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of debt</td>
<td>$539,246</td>
<td>$1,560,774</td>
<td>$1,795,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of debt to value of mortgaged property</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>49.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average debt per mortgaged farm was $5423 in 1925.
REPORT OF LIVESTOCK GROUP

BEEF CATTLE

It is the opinion of the Livestock Committee that beef production in the county is better suited to the range area rather than to the farm pastures. Also that the cheapest beef that can be made is that made on the range. It is, therefore, recommended that the cattle business of the county be based on the most intelligent use of this range.

While some have used farm pastures for the purpose of producing beef cattle, it is the general opinion that this pasture can better be used by farm sheep. While quite a number of steers have been fed in the past in Wallowa county, it is not considered a profitable undertaking especially when grain is fed with the hay. The spread in price on the coast market has not justified grain feeding. Those who have used grain, hay and alfalfa for feeding steers report that they have made some profit.

Where steer feeding is undertaken it is necessary to have good cattle, good feedlots, and the best of hay, also a feeder should feed his own hay.

A two cent spread in price is considered necessary in steer feeding. It is recommended that two years old is the most desirable age to market steers.

It is the opinion of the Livestock Committee that $10.00 alfalfa does not justify the use of silage in fattening steers. When hay is high in price, silage might be justified. The figures at the Union Experiment station indicate that three pounds of silage has about the same feed value as one pound of alfalfa hay. Beef cattle men are urged to use the best of cattle and at every opportunity to emphasize the fact that the best beef comes from beef bred cattle.

In view of the benefit that has been obtained by the cattle producers from the Orderly Marketing Association as organized by the Oregon Cattle and Horse Raisers Association, the Livestock Committee wishes to indorse the work being done, and to urge the continued support of the cattlemen of the county in this important work.

We recommend that the County Agent be requested to handle the blackleg Agressin thru his office for stockmen in view of the fact that a considerable saving to stockmen can thus be obtained.

HORSES

Figures gathered in the country show an alarming rapid decrease in the number of good draft horses on the farms. Also that very few colts are being raised to replace the wornout draft horses. The number of public service stallions in Oregon has decreased from 1200 to 300 during the last ten years. At the present rate of colt production, it would appear that a very few years will bring a shortage in draft horses. This fact is simply called to the attention of this group and a recommendation is made that farmers having good draft mares should breed them for the purpose of at least replacing the wornout horses each year.

HOGS

The production of hogs is considered an important livestock industry in Wallowa county. And it is recommended that it be expanded within reason. It is recognized by the livestock group that hog production is most economically carried on in connection with the dairy business.

The market outlook for hogs is very satisfactory in the northwest in view of the fact that only 50 per-
cent enough hogs are produced to take care of the consumption. Wallowa county is considered an ideal hog section and enough hogs should be raised here to consume the home grown grain not needed for other livestock industries. Pasture is considered an important feed crop to cut down grain needed in hog production.

Local hog producers recommend that those engaged in the industry should strive to build up the sows to produce annually litters of seven pigs each as a standard crop, as the more pigs produced per sow the greater profit in the business.

The best price period, for fat hogs as shown by the records, occurs in March and August. Farmers are urged to aim at these markets which means farrowing in March and September and crowding them to make 200 pounds at six months of age.

Based on cost of production figures gathered by the Oregon Agricultural College, it cost $9.27 per hundred to produce pork. Applied to Wallowa county conditions, good management and utilization of such feeds as skim milk and pasture together with grain and large litters, should allow for the production of pork at not to exceed $7.50 per hundred. This will vary with the grain prices, however, and the care given the hogs.

It is recommended that those going into the hog production business should pay careful attention to the selection of their sows. Only healthy stock should be kept. A sow should have a good deep body, plenty of length and good strong feet. She should have twelve good teats and should be from a large litter. These points together with her producing ability are important to the success of the business.

SHEEP

The sheep business in Wallowa county has always been one of the leading livestock industries. There are at present about 65,000 sheep according to the U. S. D. A. census recently published. The livestock committee in considering this phase of the business feel that at present the situation is on a stable basis. No particular change is advocated under the present feed conditions. One phase of sheep raising that offers some opportunity for expansion is that of fattening lambs for market, preferably, on home grown hay. The committee, however, wishes to recommend that those who have not had experience with sheep, should be careful in going into lamb fattening as it is a highly speculative undertaking. It frequently happens that a lamb feeder might lose an entire hay crop due to price fluctuation during the feeding period. It is the feeling of the livestock group that it is absolutely necessary to have well drained feed lots, good water, and good light lambs, and that a 50 pound lamb is the best feeder. One pound of grain and all the hay that a lamb will eat is considered the standard ration. In order to get the best price on the market, it is necessary that the lamb be fat when sold and at a weight of 85 to 90 pounds on the ranch.

Lamb fattening affords a suitable means of marketing grain and hay in most years.

The livestock committee feels that soil fertility is greatly enhanced through the use of manure and that feeding operations such as lamb feeding and steer feeding provide an opportunity to build up the production of the farm by using the manure thus provided. This manure is a part of the return from the feeding operation and is an important phase of the ranch operation.
Experience of local feeders indicates that feeding lambs under shed is an advantage in that it preserves the value of the manure and is also considered a means of making better gains.

It is recommended that farm sheep business be expanded under conditions of ample feed. It should be borne in mind in this connection by the inexperienced, however, sheep raising requires careful attention to the details of the business to insure success. As compared with dairying, it is the feeling of the committee that when there is plenty of labor available on the farm the dairy will pay the highest labor wage, on the other hand, where labor is scarce, sheep will no doubt be the most profitable.

Owing to the difficulty of handling hogs and sheep on the same farm it is recommended that unless a ranch is particularly adapted to both, that only one of these phases be undertaken. This is mentioned because of the difficulty of keeping hogs away from lambing quarters or pastures where small lambs are run. Considerable loss has been experienced because of sows killing the lambs.

Respectfully submitted
JAY H. DOBBIN, Chairman.

REPORT OF FARM CROPS GROUP

WHEAT

Wheat is Wallowa county's principal cash crop and provides an annual income in the neighborhood of a half million dollars. During 1926, according to railroad records, the county exported 553,000 bushels. Sixty per cent of the wheat produced is winter wheat and 40 per cent spring wheat, the bulk of the spring wheat being produced on irrigated lands. The maximum wheat acreage in the county was planted in 1919 during the high price period when 33,204 acres were produced. The acreage dropped to 26,382 acres in 1924 and has seen a slight increase since that time.

Four varieties of winter wheat are grown of which about 85 per cent is Forty-fold, 12 percent Hybrid 128, and the balance consists of Turkey Red and Triplet. Of the spring wheat grown 10 per cent is Federation, 70 percent Hard Federation, and the balance of 20 per cent is made up of Marquis, Spring Club, and Wallowa.

A survey among various wheat buyers in the county indicates that 60 per cent of the wheat crop takes a one per cent dockage for smut which causes a loss of from $8,000 to $10,000 annually. Dockage from mixture causes an additional loss of approximately $1,000 annually.

Your committee recognizes that too many varieties of wheat are now being grown in the county and there is a tendency for mixtures to result. Of the winter wheats, we recommend that Forty-fold and Hybrid 128 be sown. While there is divided opinion as to the merits of Hybrid 128, we recommend that the county agent arrange test plantings of these two varieties and keep careful check on the yield per acre.

On the more shallow soils where moisture is limited, we recommend Turkey Red for fall sowing.

For spring sowing on the dry lands, Hard Federation should be standardized upon and all other varieties discarded.
Under irrigation, Federation, on every irrigated project in the west as well as in Wallowa County, has outyielded all other varieties from 5 to 8 bushels per acre. We recommend that soft Federation be standardized upon for spring sowing on the irrigated lands.

After fallow winter wheat should be sown in preference to spring wheat.

Not more than 5 per cent of the wheat grown in Wallowa County is treated for smut by the copper carbonate dry dust method. All of the leading wheat growing areas are now using this method in preference to formaldehyde or blue vitrol. By using this improved method, good stands can be obtained with 20 per cent less seed, thus saving growers $5,000 annually. To test out this method under Wallowa County conditions your committee recommends that a series of demonstrations of the dry dust treatment vs. formaldehyde and blue vitrol be established in various communities. Extension bulletin number 381 giving plans for a home-made dusting machine can be obtained at County Agent’s office.

By selection of seed comparatively free from smut and by careful treatment, your committee believes that smut dockage can be decreased at least by 50 percent.

Pure seed of the right varieties is important, and your committee recommends that the county agent arrange for certifications of sufficient Hybrid 128, Forty-fold, Turkey Red, Hard Federation and Federation to meet local seed requirements.

OATS AND BARLEY
Wallowa County produces annually between 5000 and 6000 acres each of oats and barley, all of which is used in the county for the feeding of livestock. Barley is as good if not a better fattening feed for hogs and lambs than wheat. It produces more pounds of feed per acre under irrigation than either wheat or oats. Barley mixed with 20 percent of oats makes an excellent concentrate for feeding of dairy cows in conjunction with alfalfa hay.

Because barley yields more pounds of feed per acre than either wheat or oats under irrigated conditions, your committee recommends an increase in the acreage of barley at the expense of spring wheat and oats where these are grown to be fed on the farm.

Neither barley nor oats should be grown for shipment out of the county and the acreage should be limited to local feed demands.

Best barley varieties to grow are for irrigated lands, Trebi, for the dry lands, Hannchen. Other varieties should be discarded.

Best varieties of oats for the irrigated lands are Golden Rain and Swedish Select, for the dry lands Markton, smut proof. Because of its smut proof qualities Markton might also be desirable for irrigated lands.

We recommend that the acreage of oats not be increased.

RYE
Blue beardless rye is recommended for both hay and grain purposes under dry land conditions.

HAY AND FORAGE
Wallowa County produced according to the 1925 census 45,051 tons of Hay from 33,698 acres. Kinds of hay, acreage and yields per acre are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Tons per acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timothy and clover</td>
<td>1,982</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clover</td>
<td>1,118</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa</td>
<td>10,536</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Hay</td>
<td>1,155</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain Hay</td>
<td>14,548</td>
<td>.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because of its higher average
yield, superior quality, and long life, we recommend that alfalfa supplant all other hay wherever practical.

The best variety of alfalfa is Grimm and regardless of difference in price, it should be planted in preference to Common. Grimm is more hardy than Common, competes with grass better and will maintain a stand for a longer period. Only certified Grimm should be used.

It is known that land plaster or gypsum applied to alfalfa at the rate of 100 pounds per acre, has increased the yield by 33 1/3 per cent. We recommend that the county agent arrange tests demonstrating of gypsum or sulphur as a fertilizer for alfalfa in the various communities of the county.

Alfalfa should not be grown for shipment out of the county.

The best crops to follow alfalfa are Federation wheat or potatoes.

For the deeper dry lands throughout the west yellow blossom sweet clover is giving excellent results as a pasture crop. Your committee recommends it for trial on dry farms and irrigated farms with limited water supply, where summer pasture is needed for hogs, sheep or cows.

A permanent pasture is urged for every dairyman and owner of a farm flock. Irrigated pasture in Wallowa County utilized with dairy cows or sheep is the most profitable acreage on the farm. There are numerous instances where good cows have produced as high as $90 worth of butterfat during the six months pasturing period from a single acre of irrigated pasture. A grass mixture containing Ladino clover will perhaps give greater carrying capacity than native bluegrass and white clover.

**POTATOES**

Wallowa County produces from 330 to 400 acres of potatoes annually which is ample to meet local consumption requirements and usually provides a few cars for export. Due to increase of disease in local seed stocks, potato yields have gradually been decreasing and are now too low to be profitable. Disease-free seed is needed to increase yields. Owing to high freight rates on potatoes from this county to consuming markets and the many potato districts closer to the central markets and enjoying lower rates, it is doubtful if Wallowa County can compete with other districts in the production of potatoes for the commercial market in most years.

A high altitude combined with excellent soil and ample water provide conditions ideal for production of seed potatoes for the commercial districts. The production of certified seed potatoes offers a field for moderate expansion and will provide a cultivated crop so necessary for best results under irrigated conditions. There is a limited demand in South Idaho, Malheur County and Hermiston for certified Irish Cobbler seed potatoes now being supplied principally from Montana and Minnesota. Wallowa might get this business.

Your committee recommends in view of this situation that the county agent get several sacks of certified Irish Cobbler potatoes for trial under local conditions and aid in developing a market for this seed if the variety proves satisfactory under local conditions.

The production of certified seed potatoes should be expanded conservatively keeping the acreage in line with available market demands.

Potatoes should not be grown on the same land more often than once in four years. All potatoes whether certified or not should be treated with the corrosive sublimate or hot formaldehyde method.

The best varieties are: for the
late crop, Netted Gems; for early crop, Earliest of All, Irish Cobbler.

SEED PRODUCTION

Alsike and white clover should give good yields of seed in Wallowa and in addition should provide pasture in early spring and after the seed crop is removed. Your committee recommends these cash crops for trial on irrigated lands.

WEEDS

Quack Grass and Canada Thistles are serious weed pests. Your committee recognizes this and the committee finds upon investigation that these crops are not profitable and should not be grown.

Seriously, however, clean cultivation, where practical, is as yet the best means of control. Carbon-bisulphide, a poison gas, has given results in controlling Canada Thistles in Idaho and might be used successfully here. It is an expens-

ive method and is only practical in cleaning up small patches.

Income from cereals, hay and forage crops in the county provide, according to U. S. census figures, about 38 per cent of the annual agricultural income. The committee, therefore, has tried to keep in mind the importance of its work and develop a report that will place this important phase of agriculture on the most profitable basis.

Respectfully submitted,


REPORT OF DAIRY GROUP

World conditions in dairying as shown in statistics for January 1, 1927, indicate that the industry is in a rather strong position, prices for 1926 averaged higher than in 1925 for butter, whole milk, in city trade and for condensed and evaporated milk. Cheese prices were not as satisfactory. Storage stocks were lower for all products except cheese, on that date. These conditions have resulted even in the face of lower foreign prices and the importation of one million pounds more butter than the year before under a twelve cent tariff, as compared to eight cents for the year before. The number of dairy cattle has also decreased slightly in this country during the past two years.

Under these circumstances, expansion in dairying in this county is warranted provided local conditions will permit. While the number of dairy cattle in the county increased slightly during the period 1919 to 1924, the has been more of an increase since that time. Conditions are apparently well adapted for dairying in that excellent pastures are easily obtainable which have a carrying capacity of one and one-half cows per acre, and good yields of alfalfa, hay, and the necessary grain are also obtainable.

The census reports indicate a low average production per cow for the county but it should be recognized that included in this average, is the production of 1000 beef cows. Taking this into consideration, it is evident that the dairy cows of the county will average considerable more, but greater returns would result if improvement were made. That this can be done is proven by records of a few herds in the county that have produced
an average of over 300 pounds butter fat per cow.

Reports indicate that over 50 percent of the dairy sires in use are grades or scrubs; of the purebred sires in use, many are of high quality and great improvement could be made if all sires in use were equally good.

Both silage and root crops are used on dairy farms of the county to provide succulent feed during the winter period. Silage crops yield approximately ten tons, while roots yield about 25 tons per acre.

Most of the product of the county is marketed as cream, most of which, especially that from the larger farms, is shipped to one firm in Portland. Possibilities of making a sweet cream pool have been considered, and the express company has offered some inducements, but committees having this matter in charge have not completed their investigations. The local cheese factory is a purchaser of whole milk but it is recognized that at the present grain and pork prices, skim milk has a value in excess of 30 cents per hundred.

The keeping of records of performance on the individual cows in the dairy herds, which is considered essential in building up profitable, highly producing herds, has not been practiced by many of the dairymen of the county.

In view of these considerations and with the possibility of insuring to our county the greatest profits possible in dairying, your committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That all grade sires be eliminated and replaced by good purebred ones, and that the agricultural agent be instructed to obtain prices on young bulls, 2 to 10 months of age, with the view to making a car lot shipment.

2. That a committee consisting of Messrs. Tilton, Shafer and Crow be appointed to further investigate the possibilities of cream pools for sweet cream and churning cream.

3. That all dairymen be urged to keep records of production on the individual animals in their herds and that a committee consisting of Guy Mitchell, Oscar Shafer, and Charlie Thornburg be appointed to investigate the possibilities of forming a cow-testing association.

4. That all dairymen recognize the value of succulent feeds for the dairy cows when not on pasture and strive to provide a minimum amount either in the form of silage or roots.

5. That since there is some evidence of a mineral deficiency in the feed of dairy cows, sterilized bone meal be used, where such deficiency appears to exist. This may be mixed with grain at the rate of 2 lbs. to 100 lbs. of grain or placed in a trough where accessible.

6. That expansion in dairying be considered only on those farms that can provide adequate acreage of pasture and necessary amounts of alfalfa or clover hay.

7. That in the management of dairy herds, dairymen should recognize production per cow affects production costs more than any one item, the low producers having higher costs, but that the size of herd is also important in that overhead costs, such as taxes, interest, building charges, etc., are less per cow as the size of herd increases.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL WILSON, Chairman,
REPORT OF POULTRY GROUP

Wallowa county now produces fewer eggs than are needed for home consumption during the winter months of the year. This situation results in local poultry producers securing a higher price for eggs than they would receive if the product had to be shipped to distant markets. A recent report from the Idaho Cooperative Poultry association shows that their total average price for the year 1926 was $2.50 per dozen. This was true although they exported a total of 101 car loads of eggs. Wallowa county poultry men do not believe their climatic conditions in this section are as favorable as Idaho conditions, nor can they afford to produce eggs at the figures given above. Expansion of the poultry industry here should be along the line of increasing the returns from individual flocks by the use of better methods. This will in turn result in more profit per flock.

We believe improved methods of handling poultry flocks in Wallowa county, if adopted generally would result in doubling the egg production in the county without increasing the number of flocks. It is thought that many poultry flocks are now kept at a loss. We believe the following recommendations should be put into effect in Wallowa county.

1. Poultry houses of modern construction should be provided. These houses should be at least 18 feet in width and should be solidly constructed to avoid drafts. The straw loft house has been the most successful type in localities similar to Wallowa county in climate. Either board or concrete floors should be provided in all cases. The open front type of house is preferable. The county agent is requested to secure and keep on file, bulletins and details of construction of the straw loft house.

2. Poultry flocks in the county should be culled for egg production between the months of June and October throughout the county. This will eliminate many low producers. The county agent is requested to arrange to secure the services of a poultry specialist, who will conduct culling demonstrations here so that farmers may learn to cull their own flocks.

3. Poultry flocks should be fed a balanced ration composed equally of whole grain and mash. The O. A. C. mash No. 2 recommended by the poultry department at Corvallis is being successfully used by H. O. Harmon. The county agent is requested to secure bulletins describing the preparation of this feed, so that they may be distributed to farmers.

4. We believe that poultry flocks maintained at the present time are of good breeding. The same high class of stock should be maintained in the future.

5. Baby chicks, whether hatched locally or shipped from outside sources should be secured at a date early enough so that they will mature around September 1. Heavier breeds, such as Rhode Island Reds and Plymouth Rocks usually require a month longer time for maturity than White Leghorns. Birds coming in to lay at about September 1 will secure the advantage of a high market price for winter egg production and often times return a nice profit, when a late maturing bird which does not produce winter eggs may be kept at a loss.

6. Mrs. Joe Shinn, of Joseph, Oregon, has been quite successful in raising turkeys. It is suggested that farmers who have been suc-
cessful with turkeys may find it an advantage to produce them in larger numbers. This would aid in marketing as it would then be possible to ship in carloads.

7. A supply of green feed consisting of 50 percent alfalfa leaves and the remainder either carrots or stock beets, should be provided for all flocks kept for production during the winter months.

H. O. HARMON, Chairman.
Committee—Mrs. Joe Shinn, Mr. Joe Shinn, R. D. McClallen, E. O. Storm, M. O. Courtney.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB REPORTS

Boys' and Girls' Club Committee
1. That since club work is practically new in this county, that a reasonable number of clubs be started this year.
2. That since many communities have found that the grange, parent-teacher organization, chamber of commerce, or some other community organization has strengthened club work by appointing a club committee, this club committee to help select club leaders and back up the work in their community, we would recommend that the nine granges of the county each appoint a club committee to look after the club work in their respective community, particularly working with the various clubs in girls' projects, such as, sewing, cooking, homemaking and canning; also that these committees give assistance in the livestock and crops clubs.
3. We recommend that the following clubs be organized:
   - One potato club on Alder Slope with the Alder Slope Grange as its headquarters.
   - One corn club in the Bartlett country.
   - Two sheep clubs, one at Joseph, headquarters with the Prairie Creek grange, and one at Wallowa.
   - Two dairy calf clubs, one at Enterprise, the other at Wallowa as headquarters.
   - One beef calf club, headquarters at Imnaha grange.
   - Two pig clubs, one with headquarters at Lostine, the other at Flora.
   - One poultry club, headquarters at Enterprise.
4. Your committee, also, recommend the following leaders for the above mentioned clubs:
   - Dairy Calf Clubs, Fred Himelwright, Enterprise; R. G. Stearns, Wallowa.
   - Pig Clubs, W. B. Fordice, Flora; Grover Johnson, Wallowa.
   - Beef Club, Charlie Crader, Imnaha.
   - Poultry Club, W. E. Storm, Enterprise.
5. We as a committee suggest that if the other committees know of more suitable local leaders, we are open to suggestions as we realize that the people interested in crops or animals will know of other local leaders than those we have mentioned.
6. Since there may be other clubs that the communities wish organized in livestock and crops work, we would recommend that a community so wishing, communicate with N. C. Donaldson, agricultural agent, who will assist in the organization of these clubs.
7. Since club work is conducted by the U. S. Dep't of Agriculture, and the land grant college in each state, which in Oregon is the Oregon Agricultural College, and the State Dep't of Education, and since N. C. Donaldson, County Agric...
We, the Rodent Control Committee of the Wallowa County Economic Conference, having considered the rodent problems of this county have arrived at the following conclusions.

The ground squirrel problem is today one of the most serious problems facing Wallowa county. We have found that Wallowa county is the greatest consumer of poison of any in the state. When studying the situation, we find that too large a portion of the poison is used late in the season, and we strongly recommend an increase used during the period before May 1. In this county, the young squirrels are born largely in the month of April, and killing of the parents before they are born or while yet too young to care for themselves, will result in a greatly increased efficiency for the amount of poison used.

Community organization is absolutely essential to a successful handling of the squirrel problem. Sporadic individual efforts will not meet the situation and such organized work should consider the following points:

Every acre of land infested with squirrels must be systematically poisoned if results are to be secured. Particular attention must be paid to pasture and hill land as it is of only temporary benefit to poison cultivated lands while leaving immense breeding areas adjoining such districts.

Such lands as well as cultivated lands should be poisoned thoroughly by May 1, as outlined in the first section of this report. We further recommend a close check over such areas later in the season to clean up such squirrels as are missed the first time.

We believe that best results will be obtained by the setting aside of poison days or weeks in order that all lands may be treated as nearly the same time as possible.

Poison will be furnished by the Biological Survey for state and government lands lying within organized communities or adjoining such communities so far as funds will allow.

Poisoned grain and calcium cyanide are about equally efficient but the poison grain is cheaper and more easily spread over large acres than cyanide. Calcium cyanide is particularly recommended for the clean-up following poison and for use at periods where poison is not taken well. The two methods combined give us an efficient weapon which if properly used will solve the squirrel problem.

Pocket gophers are the second most important rodent pest in the
county. We find that methods for control of this pest are not well understood in the county and recommend that a series of method demonstrations be arranged by the county agent and Biological Survey. Some of these should, if possible, be carried out this spring and others in the fall.

FRED R. RANES, Chairman.


REPORT OF LAND SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

The necessity for increasing the number of farms in Wallowa Valley and of stimulating those forms of agriculture which return a greater income per acre, is apparent if the fullest measure of prosperity is to be obtained.

The work of securing the settlers to occupy the additional farms presents a number of problems:

The first requisite is to get the people.

Second: To see that they are the right kind of people.

Third: To see that they have an absolutely square deal in price and quality of land sold them.

Fourth: To see to it, after they have become settlers, that they have those courtesies shown them which will tend to promote contentment in their new home.

Since the full development of its irrigation system and the consequent increase in the price of farm lands, it has been apparent that a more intensive system of agriculture must be adopted if interest and a fair profit were to be derived from the farm lands of Wallowa Valley. Straight wheat and hay raising will no longer do. Dairying and the hogs and poultry that naturally go with it have proved extremely profitable. Therefore, the logical development should be along those lines.

At various times in the past, booklets and pamphlets descriptive of the valley have been published by the County Court, the commercial clubs of the various towns and by private individuals, but their circulation has been without system and the results have been meager. It is evident that if better results are to be had more and better cooperation must be had and more money spent in the work.

Selection of settlers fitted physically, financially and through experience for success on this type of land would aid materially in the successful settlement of the valley. Instead of advertising for and then awaiting the coming of the settler, why should we not so organize our efforts as to go into selected regions where desirable settlers are presumably available and through advertising and qualified agencies select our settlers at the source of supply? Such a plan would perhaps involve no greater expenditure than any other obtaining equal results.

But it is a matter of vital importance that the settler be protected from over charges and in the quality of land sold him. To this end it is suggested that a suitable organization be effected to which realtors and owners desiring to deal direct should submit their listing for criticism and endorsement. This organization should be composed of men acquainted with the lands of the county and having
the confidence of the community to such an extent that their indorsement would carry with it a guarantee of quality.

It is to be expected that many settlers, altho experienced, farmers may be from sections where different conditions of climate and soil prompt different methods than those found successful here. For instance: Many may be unused to irrigation. We are fortunate in having a county agent who will be at all times available for advice in the problems connected with straight farming; but we suggest that the granges, the commercial clubs and the womens clubs of the various towns make it their business to see that the social amenities are offered the settler and his family.

While perhaps chief interest attaches to the settlement of the valley and the cutting of its large farms into smaller units, the dry farming section of the county should not be overlooked. The depression in agriculture has been particularly hard on the dry land farmers, many of whom have lost title to their lands through foreclosure or otherwise. However, the experience of many on dry farms has proved that with proper diversification success may be had.

We suggest that in any campaign to exploit the farm lands of Wallowa valley, the dry land farming sections of the county be not lost sight of.

A. C. MILLER, Chairman.