

*Oregon's Long-Term*

# TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE

(1925-1929 to 1945-1949)

- ▶ Prices and Income
- ▶ Farm Marketings by Commodity Groups
- ▶ Cropland Use by Crop Groups
- ▶ Animal Units by Livestock Groups

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## Foreword

Farming in Oregon is growing; and there is an upward trend also in values added by processing Oregon farm products. Cash returns to farmers for Oregon farm products marketed have been as much as 400 million dollars in some recent years. Primary processing within the state, such as grinding wheat into flour, canning fruits and vegetables, making butter and cheese, preparing seeds for market, etc., have added around one-fourth more to the value.

Receipts from agricultural products enhance greatly the well-being and satisfaction of Oregon's expanding population, for practically all of the state's primary wealth comes from the farms and forests. But income and purchasing power from agriculture has not always been as high as in recent years.

Data in this bulletin show that farm receipts were over 400 million dollars in 1950 and around 375 million as the 1945-1949 average. The 1925-1929 average was only slightly over one-third as much—about 134 million. The increase was due in part to higher prices but as much or more to advances in farming. Of great importance were increased production per acre and per animal and timely shifts in emphasis on the kinds of crop and animal products. Increase of crop-land acreage was only nominal, but more was improved by drainage and irrigation.

The most striking evidence of the fact that farming in Oregon is growing is contained in Figure 2 and the supporting data in Table 2. Here the distortions caused by fluctuations in prices and seasonal conditions have been removed. All marketings have been valued at 1949 prices. Thus adjusted, the average growth for a quarter century from 1925 was fairly constant at a rate of approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent a year.

Contributing to this result were such factors as applied research, careful planning, and much hard work. The further application of these ingredients will undoubtedly cause farming in Oregon to continue to grow during the quarter century ahead. Data such as contained in this bulletin and the other statistical bulletins listed on page 14 will assist greatly in guiding these developments.

## *Oregon's Long-Term*

# TRENDS IN AGRICULTURE<sup>\*</sup>

(1925-1929 to 1945-1949)

THE OVER-ALL TREND of farming in Oregon has been upward since the early pioneer years a century ago, although growth has varied greatly with respect to individual kinds of crops and animal products. During the quarter century to which this bulletin pertains, the rate of growth was about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent a year. Cash receipts from farm marketings increased from approximately 134 million dollars as the 1925-1929 average to 375 million for 1945-1949. That was a gain of 180 per cent in current dollars, partly owing to prices that increased 65 per cent.

Table 1. VALUE OF FARM MARKETINGS AND VALUE ADDED BY PRIMARY MANUFACTURE, OREGON 1947

Commodity group	Value of farm marketings 1947 <sup>1</sup>	Value added by manufacture 1947 <sup>2</sup>	Total 1947
Field, forage, seed, oil, and drug crops .....	\$127,774,000	\$27,192,000	\$154,966,000
Fruit, nut, and vegetable crops .....	67,868,000	35,508,000	103,376,000
Horticultural specialty crops .....	11,176,000	Not available	11,176,000
Poultry and poultry products .....	38,650,000	6,960,000	45,610,000
Dairy products .....	53,818,000	12,972,000	66,790,000
Meat animals and wool .....	85,865,000	13,318,000	99,183,000
Miscellaneous animal products (fur, goats and mohair, rabbits, horses and mules, apiary products) .....	2,657,000	Not available	2,657,000
Farm forest products .....	10,000,000	Not available	10,000,000
Totals .....	\$397,808,000	\$95,950,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$493,758,000 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Oregon State College estimates based on U. S. Department of Agriculture statistics and other data.

<sup>2</sup>Oregon State College estimates based on Census of Manufactures, 1947, and other data.

<sup>3</sup>Value added by manufacture of miscellaneous animal products and farm forest products is not included.

\* This bulletin was prepared by L. R. Breithaupt, Extension Agricultural Economist, and (Mrs.) Elvera Horrell, Extension Economist (Statistics). Liberal use was made of data from the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Oregon State College without which this bulletin could not have been prepared. The authors acknowledge with thanks helpful suggestions by M. D. Thomas, Extension Agricultural Economist, and other staff members who read the manuscript.

Table 2. CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS: OREGON

Year	Current dollars <sup>1</sup>	Oregon farm price index <sup>2</sup>	1949 dollars <sup>3</sup>
1924 .....	\$112,946,000	54	\$209,159,000
1925 .....	132,606,000	63	210,486,000
1926 .....	129,255,000	59	219,076,000
1927 .....	133,118,000	57	233,540,000
1928 .....	138,585,000	59	234,890,000
1929 .....	137,058,000	61	224,685,000
1925-1929 average .....	134,124,000	60	224,535,000
1930 .....	115,318,000	48	240,246,000
1931 .....	82,575,000	34	242,868,000
1932 .....	62,563,000	27	231,715,000
1933 .....	75,067,000	30	250,223,000
1934 .....	79,674,000	32	248,981,000
1930-1934 average .....	83,039,000	34	242,807,000
1935 .....	99,766,000	39	255,810,000
1936 .....	114,530,000	44	260,295,000
1937 .....	127,546,000	47	271,374,000
1938 .....	107,703,000	37	291,089,000
1939 .....	110,808,000	38	291,600,000
1935-1939 average .....	112,071,000	41	274,034,000
1940 .....	116,505,000	41	284,159,000
1941 .....	156,688,000	48	326,433,000
1942 .....	214,121,000	64	334,564,000
1943 .....	272,963,000	76	359,162,000
1944 .....	300,181,000	76	394,975,000
1940-1944 average .....	212,092,000	61	339,859,000
1945 .....	339,155,000	81	418,710,000
1946 .....	366,466,000	91	402,710,000
1947 .....	397,808,000	109	364,962,000
1948 .....	409,993,000	116	353,442,000
1949 .....	361,439,000	100	361,439,000
1945-1949 average .....	374,972,000	99	380,253,000
1950p .....	402,216,000	103	390,501,000

p Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup>Based on estimates of U. S. Department of Agriculture and Oregon State College Extension Service.<sup>2</sup>1949 = 100.<sup>3</sup>Current dollars adjusted to Oregon farm price index, 1949 base.

Meanwhile, there was an increase in the value owing somewhat to a gain in cropland acreage but mostly due to better farm practices. By adjusting the current dollars to a uniform price basis, it is seen that in terms of 1949 dollars, the increase was from about 225 million in 1925-1929 to 380 million in 1945-1949. This was an increase of 69 per cent, or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent a year (see Table 2 and Figures 1 and 2). Values added by primary processing and manufacture of Oregon

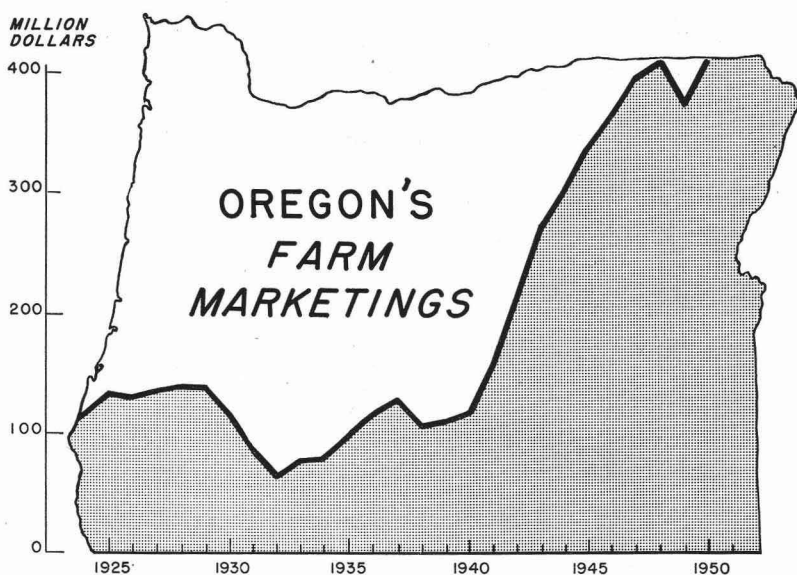


Figure 1

farm products also have become substantial, as may be noted from data in Table 1.

Other tables and charts in this bulletin show in greater detail the trends by groups of farm products, in respect to cash receipts from farm marketings, in cropland use, and in animal production.

## Oregon's Farm Marketings: Sources and Trends

Oregon's agriculture is versatile. Many products combine to make up the whole. And Oregon's agriculture is not static. New crops are constantly being introduced and grown successfully in this state.

Twenty-five years ago, livestock and livestock products accounted for more than half of Oregon's cash receipts from farm marketings. The chart (Figure 3) shows that during the 1945-1949 period, livestock and livestock products contributed only about 44 per cent to the state total. While certain types of livestock, especially sheep and hogs, have been decreasing in Oregon, new types of seed crops, processing vegetables, and "specialty" products have become increasingly important economically.

Table 3 and Figure 3 show sources and trends in Oregon's farm marketings, by twelve groups of commodities—four livestock

# FARMING IN OREGON IS GROWING

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Million  
Dollars

*Value of farm marketings  
adjusted to 1949 dollars*

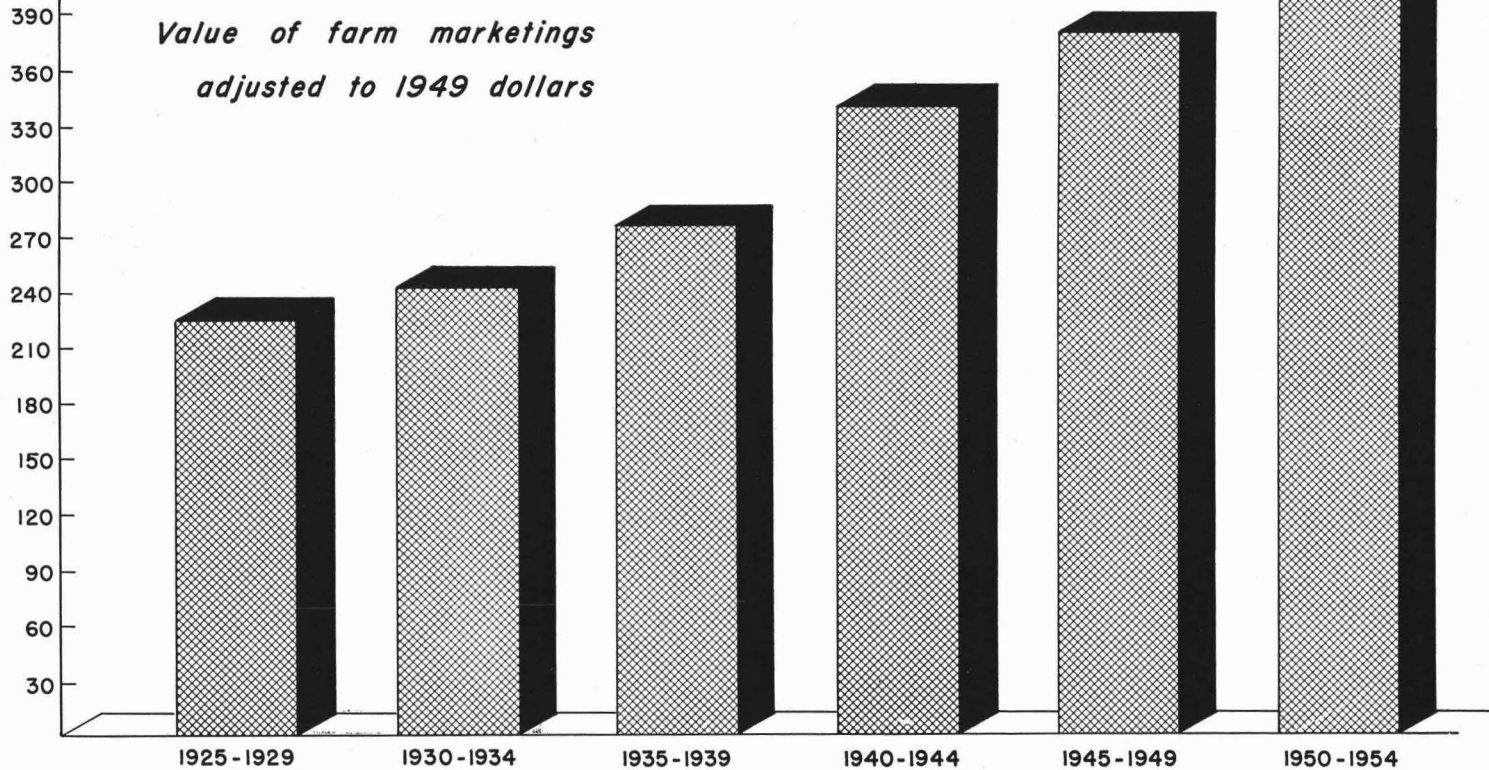


Figure 2

# OREGON'S FARM MARKETINGS: Sources and Trends

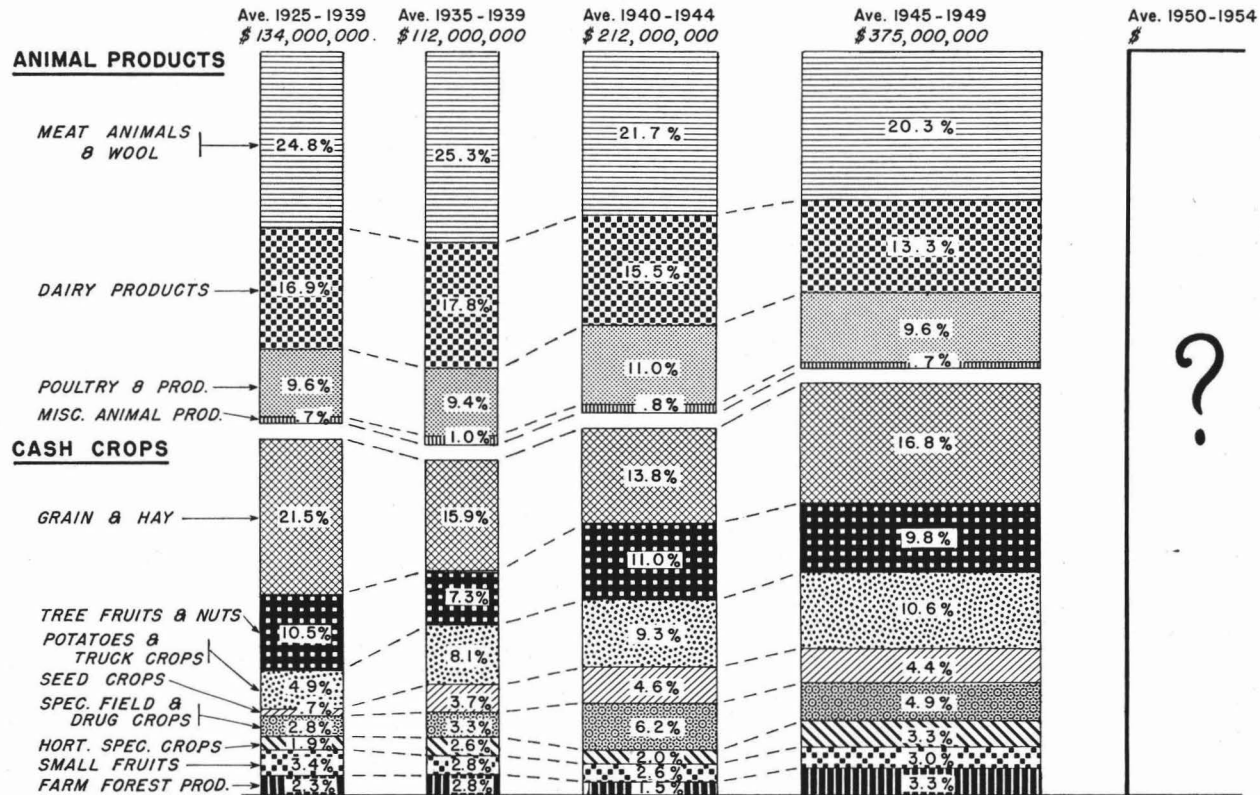


Figure 3

O.S.C. EXTENSION SERVICE, MAY 1951

and eight crop groups. Percentagewise, only two of the livestock groups have "held their own." These are poultry and poultry products, and miscellaneous animal products. This was due mainly to the increase in the turkey industry and fur and game farming in the state. Dollarwise, all livestock groups have increased.

Crop products have had their ups and downs. The grain and

Table 3. OREGON'S FARM MARKETINGS: SOURCES AND TRENDS

	Average 1925-1929	Average 1935-1939	Average 1940-1944	Average 1945-1949 <sup>p</sup>
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
<i>Animal products</i>				
Meat animals and wool .....	24.8	25.3	21.7	20.3
Dairy products .....	16.9	17.8	15.5	13.3
Poultry and prod- ucts .....	9.6	9.4	11.0	9.6
Miscellaneous ani- mal products .....	.7	1.0	.8	.7
Total animal products .....	52.0	53.5	49.0	43.9
<i>Crop products</i>				
Grain and hay .....	21.5	15.9	13.8	16.8
Tree fruits and nuts .....	10.5	7.3	11.0	9.8
Potatoes and truck crops .....	4.9	8.1	9.3	10.6
Seed crops .....	.7	3.7	4.6	4.4
Specialty field and drug crops .....	2.8	3.3	6.2	4.9
Horticultural spe- cialty crops .....	1.9	2.6	2.0	3.3
Small fruits .....	3.4	2.8	2.6	3.0
Farm forest prod- ucts .....	2.3	2.8	1.5	3.3
Total crop prod- ucts .....	48.0	46.5	51.0	56.1
Total dollars, all sources .....	\$134,000,000	\$112,000,000	\$212,000,000	\$375,000,000

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary.

Source: Based on estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon State College, Extension Service.



hay group contributes a smaller percentage to the state's farm income than it did 25 years ago, but still remains one of the most important groups of cash crops. Groups of crops that show the largest gains include potatoes and truck crops, seed crops, specialty field and drug crops, horticultural specialty crops, and farm forest products. All groups, including grains and hay, have increased dollarwise.

### Oregon's Cropland Trends

Land used for farm crops in Oregon has increased only about 10 per cent during the last 30 years. The total in 1949 was about 4,600,000 acres. In 1919 it was 4,260,000 acres. All groups of crops except hay and tree fruits and nuts, have increased over the past three decades. Tree fruit acreage has declined more than nuts have increased.

For more than 30 years, small grains and corn have occupied from about one-third to two-fifths of the total cropland. Hay crops have gradually yielded ground. They now utilize slightly less than one-fourth of the total, compared with slightly more than one-fourth in each of the previous periods recorded on the chart.

Forage-seed crops have shown an outstanding growth over the years. This group of crops accounted for nearly 8 per cent of the cropland harvested in 1949, compared to less than 1 per cent in 1919.

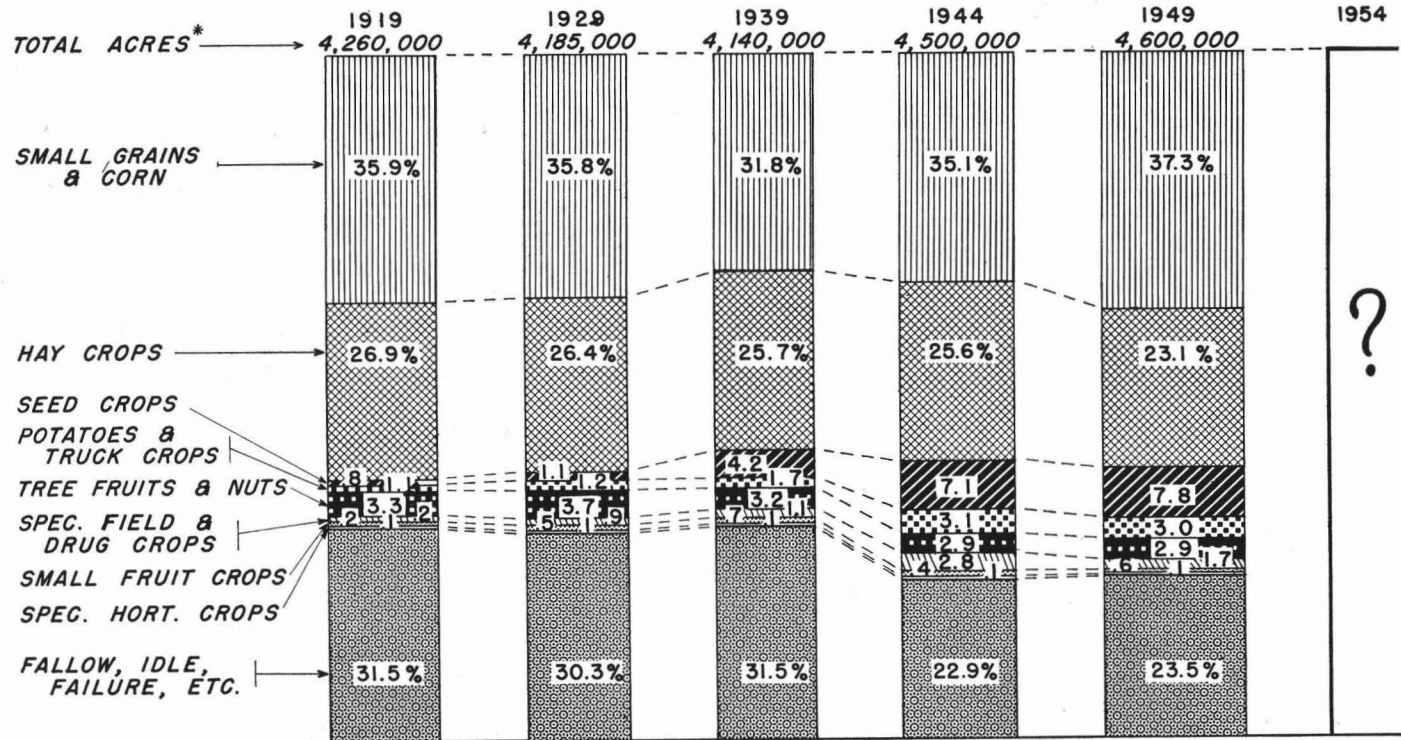
Table 4. OREGON'S CROPLAND TRENDS

Land use	1919	1929	1939	1944r	1949p
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Small grains and corn .....	35.9	35.8	31.8	35.1	37.3
Hay crops .....	26.9	26.4	25.7	25.6	23.1
Seed crops .....	.8	1.1	4.2	7.1	7.8
Potatoes and truck crops .....	1.1	1.2	1.7	3.1	3.0
Tree fruits and nuts ....	3.3	3.7	3.2	2.9	2.9
Specialty field and drug crops .....	.2	.9	1.1	2.8	1.7
Small fruit crops .....	.2	.5	.7	.4	.6
Specialty horticultural crops .....	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1
Fallow, idle, failure, etc. ....	31.5	30.3	31.5	22.9	23.5
Total number of acres <sup>1</sup> .....	4,260,000	4,185,000	4,140,000	4,500,000	4,600,000

r Revised. p Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup>Includes all cropland acreage harvested, fallow, idle, and failure.

# Oregon's Cropland Trends



\* Includes cropland acreage harvested, fallow, idle, and failure.

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Figure 4

More land is also being used for potatoes and truck crops but less for tree fruits and nuts. These two groups accounted for nearly 6 per cent compared with around  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent 30 years earlier. Miscellaneous specialty crops, small fruit crops, and specialty horticultural crops made up the remaining  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the 1949 acreage, compared with only  $\frac{1}{2}$  of one per cent used by these three groups in 1919.

The acreage of fallow, idle, failure, etc., was less in 1949 than in 1919, 1929, and 1939, but greater than in 1944.

Changes in total acreage of cropland and its use over the years are shown in Table 4 and graphically in Figure 4.

### Oregon's Principal Animal Industries

The livestock industry in Oregon presents a constantly changing picture. Beef cattle, dairy cattle, chickens, and turkeys are considerably more numerous now than in 1920. Meanwhile horses and mules, sheep, and hogs have tended downward.

Milk cows on January 1, 1951, at 235,000 head, were nearly a fifth below the wartime peak in 1943 and the lowest since 1930. Beef cows, on the other hand, have increased with only minor fluctuations to reach a peak of 352,000 head on January 1, 1951. Twenty-five years ago, milk cows exceeded the beef cows. The situation is now reversed.

Hogs, sheep, horses, and mules have reached the lowest point in Oregon in 80 years. Chicken and turkey numbers are above 1920 but below the peak years of the middle 1940's.

The relative importance of the various livestock industries in terms of total digestible nutrient requirements is shown in Figure 5 and Table 5. Over-all, there were fewer animal units in 1950 than in any of the other four periods shown on the chart. Beef cattle and

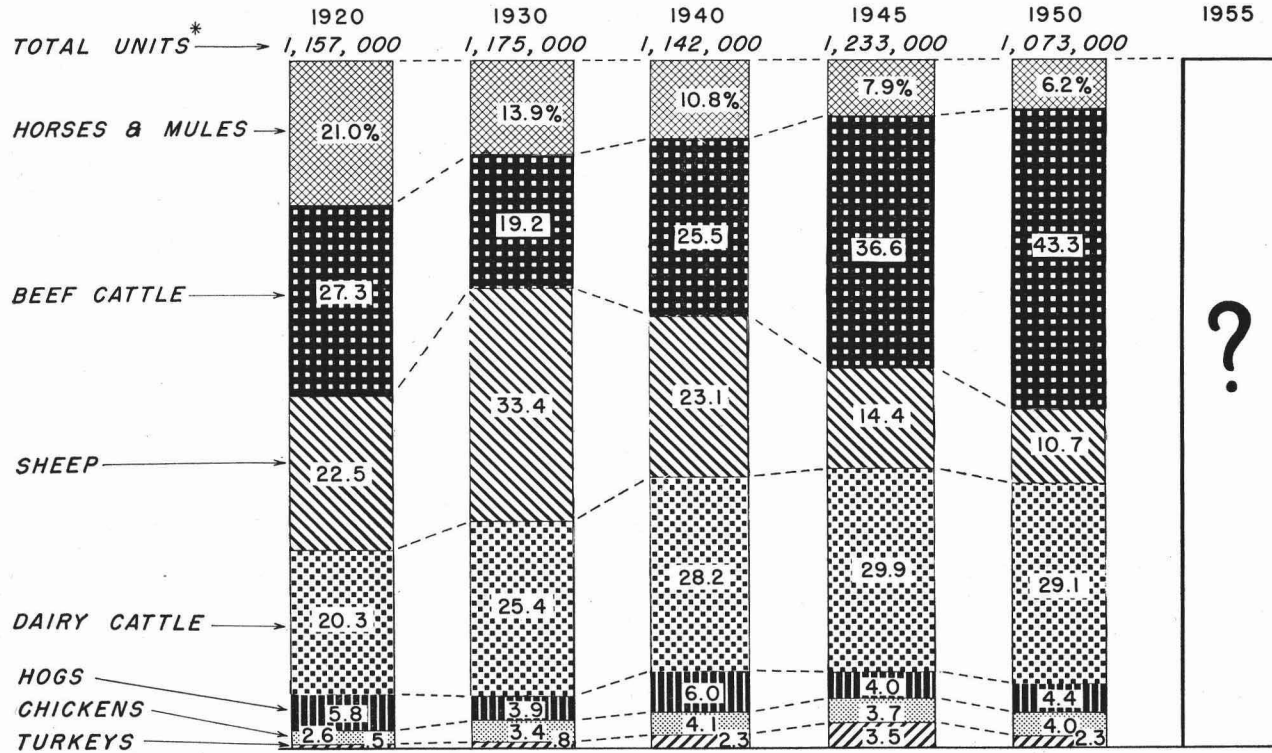
Table 5. OREGON'S PRINCIPAL ANIMAL INDUSTRIES

	1920r	1930	1940	1945r	1950p
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Horses and mules .....	21.0	13.9	10.8	7.9	6.2
Beef cattle .....	27.3	19.2	25.5	36.6	43.3
Sheep .....	22.5	33.4	23.1	14.4	10.7
Dairy cattle .....	20.3	25.4	28.2	29.9	29.1
Hogs .....	5.8	3.9	6.0	4.0	4.4
Chickens .....	2.6	3.4	4.1	3.7	4.0
Turkeys .....	.5	.8	2.3	3.5	2.3
Total TDN units <sup>1</sup> ....	1,157,000	1,175,000	1,142,000	1,233,000	1,073,000

r Revised. p Preliminary.

<sup>1</sup>Indicates animal units based on estimated total digestible nutrient requirements.

# Oregon's Principal Animal Industries



\*Indicates animal units based on estimated T.D.N. requirements.

O.S.C. EXTENSION SERVICE

Figure 5

dairy cattle are relatively the most important industries from the standpoint of feed and forage requirements in Oregon. These two groups together account for nearly three-fourths of the total units. Sheep, horses and mules, and hogs, now make up about one-fifth of the total units compared with around one-half in 1920. Chickens and turkeys, although still relatively unimportant in terms of total feeding units, are much more significant than they were in past decades.

## Oregon Agricultural Statistical Bulletins

At the present time, bulletins containing Oregon agricultural statistics, by groups of commodities, include the following:

### Livestock

- Extension Bulletin 718, Oregon's Meat Animals and Wool, 1925-1951. (Cattle, sheep and wool, hogs.)
- Extension Bulletin 680 and Extension Circular 536, Oregon's Dairy Industry, 1867-1949. (Dairy cattle and dairy products.)
- Extension Bulletin 679, Oregon's Specialty Animal Industries, 1936-1946. (Farm-raised fur and game, fish and sea food, horses and mules, goats and mohair, rabbits for meat, apiary products, etc.)
- Extension Bulletin 678 and Extension Circular 537, Oregon's Farm-Raised Poultry Products, 1909-1949. (Chickens, chicken eggs, broilers, turkeys, turkey eggs, geese, ducks, etc.)

### Crops

- Extension Bulletin 710, Oregon's Small Fruit Crops, 1936-1949. (Strawberries, raspberries, loganberries, boysen and youngberries, blackberries, gooseberries, cranberries, grapes, etc.)
- Extension Bulletin 701, Oregon's Potatoes and Truck Crops, 1870-1949. (Potatoes, vegetables for fresh market, vegetables for processing, melons.)
- Extension Bulletin 700, Oregon's Tree Fruit and Nut Crops, 1910-1949. (Apples, cherries, peaches, pears, prunes, filberts, walnuts.)
- Extension Bulletin 696, Oregon's Specialty Field and Drug Crops, 1915-1948. (Hops, fiber flax, flaxseed, peppermint, dry beans, sugar beets for sugar, dry edible peas, etc.)
- Extension Bulletin 694, Oregon's Seed Crops, 1936-1947. (Forage and cover crop seeds, vegetable seeds, certified seed potatoes, hybrid seed corn, sugar beets for seed, etc.)
- Extension Bulletin 692, Oregon's Grain and Hay Crops, 1909-1947. (Wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn, hay.)
- Extension Bulletin 691, Oregon's Farm Forest Products, 1946. (Timber harvested from farm lands and miscellaneous items taken from the farm and public forests.)
- Extension Bulletin 677, Oregon's Specialty Horticultural Crops, 1936-1945. (Greenhouse crops, nursery crops, bulbs, holly, cut flowers, and flower seeds.)