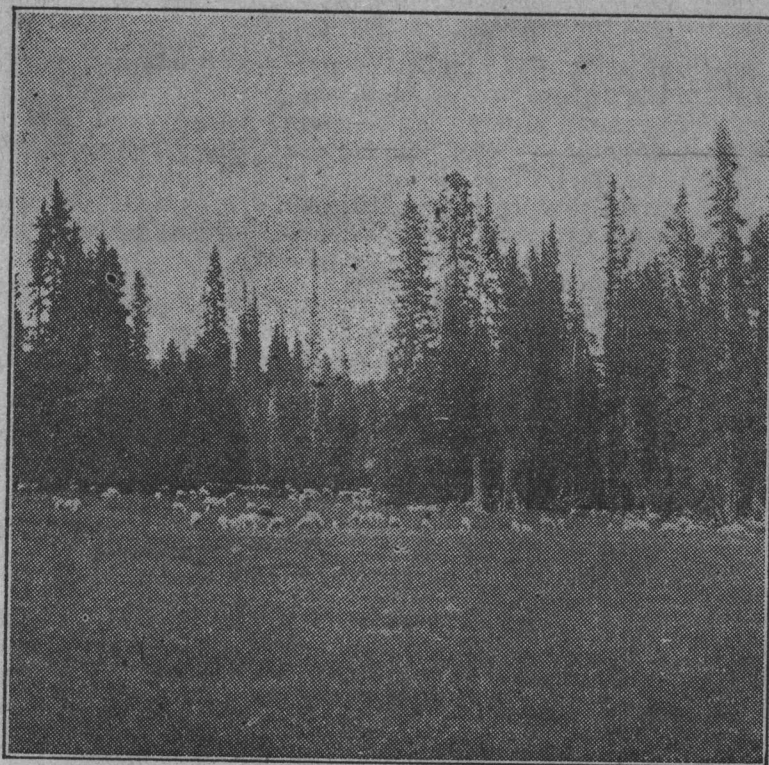




REPORT OF THE

## Grant County Agricultural Economic Conference



Conducted in

**Canyon City, Oregon, March 19 & 20, 1936**



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1936

## Economic Conference Committees

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E. L. Potter, Head of Dept of  
Agricultural Economics.

### SHEEP

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Arthur King, Soils and Irriga-  
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## FOREWORD

The Grant County Agricultural Economic Conference was planned by a general committee of farm leaders representing various organizations, communities, and commodity interests in the county. Extension Service of the Oregon State Agricultural College, through its local representative, Ralph Brooke, county agent, assisted in organizing the event, assembling data, and interpreting the data used by the various committees.

Six committees, each consisting of a number of practical producers, gave painstaking effort and careful consideration to the reports presented to the general conference for adoption. On the first day of the session all interested growers in the county were invited to participate in the committee discussions and final drafting of committee reports. The various committee reports, therefore, constitute a compilation of the best opinion in the county supported by local experience and statistical data. Taken together, the reports constitute a program for Grant county agricultural adjustment development through democratic discussion procedure in which all interested persons had an opportunity to participate.

While recommendations contained in this bulletin are based upon the best available data and the judgment of successful and practical producers, these should not be considered final. Conditions are constantly changing and in accordance with these changes the recommendations herein contained will need revision and adjustment as time goes on.

This conference was one of a series of similar events held in most of the important agricultural counties in the state early in 1936.

The conference developed a program to guide Grant county agriculture. Its ultimate value stands upon knowledge and use of its findings by individual producers and by the various organizations and agencies in the county.

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## Beef Cattle Committee Report

With cattle numbers in the United States showing a decrease of one-half of one per cent January 1, 1936, compared with the number of head January 1, 1935, the outlook for this industry is not much different to what it was in 1935. However, the value per head on January 1, 1936, was somewhat higher than a year earlier and, if price levels are maintained on an equal basis for 1936, fair returns may be expected from this industry. In Grant County, the 1935 U. S. Agricultural Census shows the county ranking sixth in numbers of all cattle, or a total of 46,048 head on farms. The cattle industry is the largest in Grant County agriculture and, considering this fact, the committee makes the following recommendations:

### 1. Cattle Numbers and Forage Supplies

A very close balance exists between numbers of cattle, in fact all livestock numbers, and feed supplies in Grant County. It is considered under existing conditions that any appreciable increase in cattle numbers may upset this balance, creating a feed shortage and may result in considerable losses of stock. Also, with forage conditions on ranges privately owned limited due to severe over-grazing, and most units on National Forests filled, further increase in numbers of cattle would be unjustified unless forage conditions could be materially changed. This also takes into consideration the trend in regard to future policies which may be made by National Forest officials and also the problem of game as affecting forage on ranges. This committee recommends that, until such time as the now existing close balance between livestock numbers and feed supplies is changed, any sizeable increase in cattle numbers would not be warranted.

The tendency of the average cattleman is to stock his plant with the number of cattle that he can feed in the average good year. Then, when a short or drouth year hits, he finds himself with no surplus hay on hand and it is necessary to go out and buy feed to carry him over. This results in the necessity, as a rule, of mortgaging his cattle to take care of the added expense where this program is followed. It is the belief of the cattle committee that the logical procedure would be to stock the plant with the number that can be fed on an average poor year. This will allow him to build up a feed surplus to carry him through the extremely bad years. It is better to have a surplus of hay to sell as he moves along rather than to find himself short of feed during the poor years. It is recognized by the cattle committee that a feed shortage has caused more livestock operators to go out of business than any other cause.

### 2. Water Development

The cattle committee recognizes the importance of more water development on the range. Water holes should be distributed as much as possible over the range. It is recommended by the cattle committee that the Grant County Livestock Association make an effort to secure water development through the services of the WPA and CCC camps.

### 3. Calf Crop

The individual operator would find it to his advantage to give more study to the factors that in-

fluence calf crop. It was pointed out by cattlemen present that the present calf percentage is low. It has been the tendency of the breeders to use all kinds of bulls and not enough of them on the range.

It is also a fact that calves are coming at all seasons of the year. It is believed good business to have the calves come as nearly as possible at one time so that the operator will have a uniform age and size of feeders to supply the feed lots or slaughter at marketing time.

It is further recommended that an effort be made by operators to provide the right kind of pastures at breeding time insofar as possible. This practice will tend to increase the percentage of calves.

### 4. Quality

With quality rather than numbers now being criterion, it is recommended that close culling be practiced in breeding cows and use of high-grade purebred beef bulls be made in order that more effective marketing might be secured. This should enable ranchers to dispose of marketable cattle to better advantage by establishing higher quality, avoiding cutting back of less desirable individuals which results in lower prices to the owner.

### 5. Economic Unit

The cattle committee considered an economic unit in this branch of the industry. It is our belief that it is not possible to state definitely what an economic unit should be but that it should be based on the condition of the individual and his lay out and that it should be sufficiently large to support the family on the present American standard of living.

### 6. Cattle on Small Ranches

As a considerable number of ranchers within the county are operating small herds, income from which is supplemented from other sources, the committee recommends that, in the case of these small owners, steps be taken to introduce some diversification such as growing seed crops for which a fair demand exists for seed as broomgrass, meadow fescue, alfalfa, alsike clover and crested wheatgrass. This practice should enable small owners to obtain an income to maintain a better standard of living.

### 7. Feeding of Cattle in Grant County

It is believed by the cattle committee that sufficient cattle should be fed in Grant County to take care of the local needs. Wherever there is a surplus of feeds suitable for fattening, this recommendations would apply. Where the local market is not able to absorb the surplus cattle in the county, there is a ready market for them at North Portland.

### 8. Breeds

In order to further improve the quality of Grant County cattle, it is recommended that the practice of maintaining dairy breeds of cattle and marketing steers of dairy origin be discontinued and straight beef or straight dairy breeds be utilized for their respective uses.

### 9. Game in Relation to Livestock

It is firmly believed deer have increased in Grant County at least five times in the past ten years. As a result of this increase, certain problems have arisen which demand careful attention of the ranchers of Grant County. In some instances an over-concentration of game on private deed lands has resulted in considerable damage to the land owner. In order to make a more equitable adjustment of the use of

private lands by deer and elk, a careful study should be made of the situation by competent livestock and game specialists and a program of game management adopted for the county that will take into consideration the interests of the tax-paying land owners, public rights on the National Forest and the interests that sportsmen and recreationists have in all type of game.

### 10. Bang's Disease Testing

In view of the fact that the Bang's Disease program now being staged by the Federal Government provides an indemnity and that this program is likely to terminate sooner or later, and further that

there will be a compulsory testing program without indemnity to follow, the cattle committee recommends that all dairymen and beef cattle raisers in the county avail themselves of the opportunity of testing while the Government program is in effect. It is believed that this will be to the advantage of all concerned and will have a tendency to speed up the testing program.

### 11. Forest Service Reductions

The cattle committee feels that there should be no reduction in cattle numbers on the National Forests, except where an actual shortage of feed exists.

## Sheep Committee Report

With Grant County in numbers of sheep, according to the 1935 U. S. Department of Agriculture Census, ranking seventh in the state with a total of 118,870 head as of January 1, 1935, and the county being essentially a livestock county, the sheep industry is one of major importance. The outlook for this industry is fair at the present time with a short lamb crop in 1935 and prospects for higher prices for wool in 1936 due to supplies being less in the four principal countries exporting wool. The wool prospects are also better due to increased activity of the woolen mills and an increased demand for woolen goods. The trend of sheep has been downward since 1931 due partly to low prices received during the past years and partly to decreased rainfall, causing a semi-drouth, especially in the Western areas. The downward trend of sheep has been mostly in the Western or range area with the numbers of sheep in the corn-belt states maintaining about the same, at least up to January 1, 1935. With this in mind, the committee on sheep has formulated the following recommendations:

### 1. Soil Conservation Program

The present Soil Conservation Program recently introduced in place of the AAA may work to the disadvantage of the Western sheep producers and the committee urges that Western sheep growers keep informed as to conditions in the corn-belt and the Southern states as this new program is being worked out. The plan, under the Soil Conservation Program, is to pay farmers for raising soil-improving crops and, with these soil-improving crops, a large amount of grass will be raised and livestock, either sheep, beef or dairy cattle, will be used to feed it off. This may lead to a large increase in numbers of sheep, which, of course, will affect markets for they will come in direct competition with sheep raising in our western country.

### 2. Size of Band

It is important to consider an economic unit in planning the raising of sheep. In the opinion of the committee, 1000 to 1200 ewes is the best number of sheep, all things considered, to handle in a band. This, of course, depends on the sheep ranch and range available. Best returns are usually obtained in those sheep outfits where approximately 50 per cent of the investment is in land and the remaining 50 per cent is in sheep. However, it is the opinion of the committee that with most outfits at the present time the greater part of the investment is in the land and equipment.

### 3. Age of Ewes

It is recommended that ewes in a band be maintained at a uniform age. Depreciation increases very rapidly in range ewes after they reach six years of age. For this reason and for the more successful

and economical operation of range sheep outfits, range ewes should be disposed of in the fall after they are six years of age. Having a band of ewes of uniform ages will aid materially in the management and handling of the band.

### 4. Culling

Culling of yearling ewes is a recommended practice in order to have a band of high producing sheep. Culling of the ewes eliminates the small and undesirable ones from the band and keeps the larger ewes that produce a more desirable wool crop and a larger lamb crop.

### 5. Fall Feed

A recommended practice which brings good results is that of having the ewes on good range or pasture so that they are "thruving" or gaining in flesh during bucking time. This will result in a larger lamb crop and will greatly decrease the number of dry ewes.

### 6. Winter Feeding

Ewes should be well fed during the winter months to insure a good clip of wool and a crop of lambs that are strong at birth. Good quality alfalfa hay is ideal for winter feed and no grain or other concentrated feed is necessary when the ewes go into the winter in a strong condition and when they are liberally fed. However, if the ewes are thin or old, it is necessary to feed them grain or other concentrates at the beginning of the winter to get the ewes built up so that they will be strong at lambing time. It was the opinion of the committee that, if ewes were down in flesh, there was no way or no feed that would bring them up in a short period of time. For this reason it was recommended that thin or old ewes be fed a small amount of grain or concentrates over a longer winter feeding period rather than be fed a larger amount of grain or concentrated feeds for a very short time just before lambing.

### 7. Tagging

The sheep committee strongly recommends the practice of tagging the ewes before lambing time. This is considered a good management practice and should be done some two weeks before lambing time or before the ewes get too heavy.

### 8. Time of Lambing

The time of lambing will vary with each sheep operator, depending on the supply of alfalfa hay, the kind of spring range available and the location of the ranch. As a general recommendation, where facilities are available for early lambing, this should be done for early lambs can usually be marketed to better advantage. The extra feed necessary to produce early lambs will be paid for by a larger wool clip. Another advantage is that when these early lambs are marketed, it gives the breeding ewes a good opportunity to get in better condition before bucking



time the following fall. A further advantage mentioned by the committee for early lambing is that the men on the sheep ranch may be employed to good advantage, for the ranch work is usually slack at this season of the year, and the lambing operations will be out of the way before the spring ranch work begins. With good management, it is possible to obtain a larger lamb crop with early shed lambing than with later range lambing.

#### 9. Creeps

Creeps for twin lambs have been found to pay and make it possible to develop the twin lambs so that they are more nearly the same size as the single lambs at the time of marketing. Good feed for lambs in the creeps is ground oats with a small mixture of bran and third cutting alfalfa hay.

#### 10. Lamb Feeding

As a recommended practice where feed is available, the committee favors the feeding of the small lambs after the marketing of the main lamb crop. This has proved to be a profitable enterprise in other localities where it has come to be a common practice. The fattening of these small lambs on home-grown feeds provides a home market for this feed at a higher price than it would usually bring.

#### 11. Death Loss

Considerable death loss may be avoided by good management practices such as exercise of the ewes during the winter feeding period to prevent ewe loss. Proper sanitary methods in the lambing sheds and corrals during lambing time will

keep down the loss from naval infection and scours to a very large extent. The practice of applying iodine on the navels of the young lambs will lessen the loss from naval infection and reduce the number of stiff lambs to a very great extent. If the iodine is applied, it should be done just as soon as possible after the lamb is born; otherwise it is of little value.

#### 12. Coyotes

The committee goes on record as in favor of a Federal bounty system on coyotes to be uniform in the Western range states. However, if the bounty could not be a Federal, the committee is in favor of the present plan.

#### 13. Shelter Belts

In many instances, shelter belts located conveniently to the feed ground will provide great protection and result in a saving of hay during the winter months. These shelter belts can be grown from Black Locust trees and these trees also make excellent fence posts. Besides the Black Locust, a number of other hardy trees are available and can be ordered from the Oregon Forest Nursery through the County Agent's office at a very low price.

#### 14. Wool Growers' Association

For a long period of time, the Grant County Stockgrowers Association has been active in working for the best interests of the wool growers in this county and we urge all sheepmen to join this association and also to become a member of the Oregon Wool Growers Association, which is an organization always on the job working for the best interests of all Oregon sheepmen.

## Soils and Irrigation Committee Report

This committee feels that the full utilization and conservation of the soil and water resources of Grant County is fundamental to any long-time agricultural program. The need for increasing the profitable production per acre should be emphasized in order to maintain a satisfactory standard of living for all.

Soil is our greatest natural resource, conservation of which is necessary for the public good. If farming practices are followed on any particular farm that lead to the depletion of the fertility of that farm, it means not only ruin to the individual farmer but also additional burdens on other farmers and other industries in this county, state and nation in the form of additional taxation to take care of the taxation load previously carried by that farm.

That the productivity of the farm land in Grant County be maintained is extremely important because of the fact that the utilization of the range land in this county is dependent upon the feed produced on the cultivated land. Should the feed supply be reduced it would mean a decrease in the number of live stock that could be pastured on the range.

It is with these thoughts in mind that the committee makes the following recommendations.

#### 1. Irrigation

According to the 1935 census, there were approximately fifty thousand acres of land in crop last year. Possibly less than one third of this land was irrigated. Yet because of the lack of natural precipitation, the bulk of the feed produced is produced on the irrigated land. Because of this fact agriculture of Grant County is largely dependent upon irrigation and the extent of agricultural productivity is to a large degree proportional to the supply of irrigation water. At the present time the supply of irrigation water is derived from the nat-

ural flow of the streams of the county. As a general rule water is plentiful early in the season, but there is a general lack of water during the summer and fall.

The committee feels that the agriculture of this county could be placed on a more stable basis if a more dependable supply of irrigation water were available. The development of a stable water supply is dependent upon the development of supplies of storage water.

There is some possibility of securing WPA funds for the construction of dams to be used for the purpose of storing water. The committee recommends that an effort be made to secure at least one small storage dam to be constructed for the purpose of demonstration the benefits to be derived from it. It is recommended that the county court sponsor such a dam and that the court authorize the county engineer to make preliminary surveys of prospective sites.

Since the water sheds of the proper streams supplying irrigation water in this county are chiefly within the National Forests, the committee recommends that the Forest Service manage the lands within these water sheds in such a manner that will allow the greatest possible conservation of water.

In certain sections of Grant County there is a possibility of utilizing the early spring run off for the purpose of supplying water enough for one good irrigation to a considerable area of land. The use of this flood water would permit growing a greater amount of feed of better quality than is now possible under present dry farming methods. This type of irrigation has been practiced with excellent results on several farms within the county, and the committee feels that it is a practice that should be more widely adopted.

The committee feels that on the average farm within the county

much better use could be made of present water supplies through improving irrigation practices. The irrigation system on the individual farm should be carefully designed to make the best possible use of the water available. The type of irrigation system to use will depend entirely upon conditions encountered on the individual farm. Such factors as quantity of water, soil, type of topography, and crop to be irrigated will determine the type of irrigation that should be used. There is the possibility of greatly improving the use of irrigation water on much of the irrigated land through the use of the strip-border method of irrigation which has been used successfully on several farms in the John Day Valley.

The corrugation method of irrigation may allow much better use of water on some of the rougher land especially where only a limited head of water is available. The system of irrigation ditches on the individual farm should be carefully designed to permit the distribution of water without waste and without unnecessary washing of the soil.

There is a considerable area of good land lying along the North Fork of the John Day River which, because of the favorable climatic conditions, could become very productive if irrigation water were available. It is the opinion of the committee that a considerable area of this land could be economically irrigated by pumping. The topography of the county is such that it would be generally necessary for each individual to install his own pumping plant. However, it is thought that because of the comparatively low pumping lift that the cost of irrigation would be very reasonable.

#### 2. Drainage

A considerable area of the land under irrigation in this county is of little value from the crop production standpoint because of the lack of drainage. As a general rule it is possible to drain this land economically. The committee recommends that whenever possible such lands be drained in order to increase the production of these lands and to prevent the entire loss to the agriculture of the county through the accumulation of alkali salts.

Where it is possible to do some form of under drainage it is preferable to open ditches. Because of the high cost of drain tile within this area, in many instances it may be profitable to construct the under drains of lumber in order to save expenses. As a general rule each individual farmer will be able to install his own drainage system, but in some instances it may be necessary for two or more farmers to cooperate in order to secure a satisfactory outlet.

Deep drainage is absolutely necessary before alkali land may be reclaimed. If deep drainage is available, it is possible to wash out the alkali salts through the use of heavy applications of irrigation water.

The committee recommends full use be made of available WPA funds for drainage for liver fluke control.

#### 3. Soil Fertility

In order that farming may be continued on a permanent basis, it is absolutely necessary that every precaution be taken to conserve the fertility in this soil. Wherever possible a crop rotation including legume crop, such as alfalfa, should be sowed.

Careful consideration should be given to the conservation of barn yard manure in order that as much plant food as possible be returned to the soil. In order to secure best possible use of barn yard manure, it should be applied to the soil at a time when a growing crop may

utilize the available plant food. Early spring application of ten to twelve tons per acre is recommended. The committee realizes that the conservation of the manure during feeding operations produces a considerable problem. They suggest that wherever possible these feeding operations be conducted on meadows making it possible to conserve the fertilizer in the manure.

The committee wishes to point out that any long time agricultural program must provide for replenishing the plant food supply in the soil. Continued farming over a period of years will mean that some day it will be necessary to replace the plant food supply in the soil with applications of commercial fertilizers. Trials conducted in certain sections of the county indicate that the use of certain commercial fertilizers is profitable at the present time. In some sections of the county the applications of sulphur has greatly increased the yields of alfalfa and wild meadow hay. In other sections of the county, treble-phosphate has caused profitable increases in the yield. The committee recommends that farmers generally try out these two fertilizers in order to determine whether or not their use would be profitable.

The committee recommends that the county agricultural agent continue fertilizer trials in different sections of the county for purpose of determining the proper types of fertilizers to use and the best methods of using these fertilizers.

#### 4. Erosion

The committee wishes to point out that erosion is a serious problem in Grant County. Considerable damage is done each year on the plow land within the county, especially that devoted to annually seeded crops and that farmed by the dry land summer fallow method. The committee recommends that farm practices be followed that will maintain a good supply of organic matter in the soil and provide a protective covering for the soil during the period of the spring run-off. Summer fallow land should be left as rough as possible in order that the water may be made to soak into the soil rather than run off over the surface.

Considerable damage has been done to the range land of the county through erosion. This damage is particularly serious because the soil on the range land is generally shallow and the loss of only a small amount of soil may destroy the productiveness of the land forever. The control of this erosion on range land lies in providing an adequate grass cover. The committee strongly recommends that grazing practices be followed that will allow a good grass covering to be maintained on all range land.

#### 5. Dry Land

Recommendations are made for the use of approved practices in handling dry land such as alternate cropping and summer fallowing, according to adaptation of soil and its location. With considerable acreage in Grant County classified as dry land, production may be greatly increased on such land by the use of approved practices.

#### 6. Soil Conservation Act

It is recommended that Grant County cooperate with the recently announced Soil Conservation Plan.

#### 7. Dredge Tailings

In view of the fact that considerable acreage of some of the most fertile soil in the John Day Valley is being reduced to waste and taken from the county tax rolls due to dredging operations and that considerable acreage has been sold or optioned to dredging companies, further decreasing taxable lands, it is recommended that suitable legis-



lation be enacted to enforce leveling of dredge tailings so that land will not be entirely lost.

8. Soil Survey

The soils committee feels that the soil survey for Grant County would be of great value in working out a proper soil conservation program. Such a survey would assist greatly in determining the proper types of crops to grow on different soils. It would also be of great

value in working out the future soil management and fertilization program for the farm lands of the county, for this reason the committee requests that the chairman and secretary prepare a resolution requesting a soil survey and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Oregon State College Experiment Station, the Bureau of Chemistry and of Soils in Washington, D. C., and the Oregon Congressional delegation in Washington, D. C.

Farm Crops Committee Report

HAY

A. The Situation

1. Hay Occupies 90% of Cropped Land

The 1934 census showed 50,868 acres of land devoted to crops in this county. Of this 44,808 acres were in hay.

2. Wild Hay About Half of Area

The different kinds of hay with the yield per acre in each in 1934 are listed below:

Kinds of Hay	Acres	Yield per Acre
Grass Hay	20,869	1.1 Tons
Grain Hay	16,291	1.3 Tons
Alfalfa	5,540	1.2 Tons
Timothy & Clover	2,035	1.2 Tons

It is seen by the above table that alfalfa produces about 2½ times as much per acre as the grass hay and about twice as much per acre as the average grain hay.

3. Balance Between Livestock and Hay

Grant County has as delicate a balance between livestock and hay supplies as any county in Oregon with the exception of Harney County where conditions are worse. In the ordinary year there is plenty of hay to go around. In some years there is a substantial carry-over but this is practically always needed the following year. Two long winters in succession would result in large in-shipments of hay or out-shipments of stock

4. Possibilities of Increasing Hay Supplies

The main possibilities in increasing the hay supply seems to be:

- a. Development of storage water.
- b. Drainage of wet lands.
- c. More levelling to provide better irrigation.
- d. An increase of the alfalfa acreage where possible.
- f. The greater use of spring flood water through the irrigation of land in the early spring.
- g. Improvement of wild meadows.

Part of the above possibilities will be covered by the committee on irrigation and drainage.

B. Recommendations

1. Ladak Alfalfa Recommended

Ladak alfalfa should be substituted for other kinds as soon as price will permit because of the following advantages:

- a. It will stand more cold.
- b. It withstands late spring frosts.
- c. It does not tend to die in drouth years when water is lacking during the summer months.
- d. It is resistant to most alfalfa diseases and to some insects.
- e. It is longer lived than other kinds.

2. Reed Canary Grass Recommended for Swamps

Additional and better hay could be secured from wet lands if planted to reed canary grass.

3. Mixed Grasses Recommended in Place of Timothy

A mixture of timothy, meadow fescue and orchard grass will give better and more hay than timothy alone.

4. Wild Meadow Improvement Suggested

Some of the grass meadows are very low-yielding due to damage from flood, drouth or over grazing. These wild hay meadows make up the bulk of the hay tonnage and can be improved in some cases by better irrigation and in other cases by reseeding with better grasses.

PASTURES AND RANGES

A. The Situation

1. Grass Is the Greatest Resource of the County

An overwhelming proportion of the county is devoted to grass. Of the 2,892,000 acres in the county 98% is used for grazing. Stock are on grass some where in the county every month of the year in most seasons. The more of the weight which can be put on from grass the better off the stock owner is.

2. Classification of Ranges

About two-thirds of the county is in National Forest or other public land while 935,000 acres or 30% of the land area is in privately owned range. Of the above only 27,000 acres is plowable pasture.

B. Recommendations

1. Mixed Grasses Recommended for Irrigated Pastures

In most cases mixed grass pastures will give greater pasture returns than native grasses when irrigated. The mixtures to use will depend upon water supply and location. So the committee advises consulting with the county agent before seeding.

2. Crested Wheat Grass for Dry Land

In all of the dry land grass nurseries conducted by the county agent's office crested wheat grass has shown itself to be outstanding. It is recommended that crested wheat grass be seeded on lands which have been plowed at one time and are now abandoned. Such lands can be plowed up and seed bed prepared so that a stand is easy to get.

On ranges now over-run by bronco grass where plowing is impossible, we recommend crested wheat grass also but different methods of seeding are necessary. It is a slower matter under these conditions to get a stand but it can be done.

For all ranches desiring to seed crested wheat grass we recommend a seed plot of from 5 to 20 acres where seed can be produced. If a threshing machine is available the seed can be cut and threshed. If it is not available, the seed can be cut and the grass scattered over the land to be seeded.

3. Range Management

If the Triple A should accept recommendations of the Salt Lake conference benefit payments may be available in the future for those who increase their grass by proper range management. Such management will necessarily include giving the grass a chance to seed once every other year. In any case this method of handling dry land

grasses is recommended. Crested wheat grass will not last indefinitely unless it has a chance to grow up and so replenish the food supply in the roots at least once every three years and preferably once every other year. Treated in this way either native bunch grass or crested wheat grass will last indefinitely.

GRAINS

A. The Situation

1. Only Small Amounts of Grains Produced

The 1934 census reports grains as follows:

Kind of Grain	Acres
Wheat	1747
Oats	753
Barley	988
Rye	1713

2. Use of Grain Increasing

There is considerable demand for grain of all kinds for winter feeding and more livestock is fed out from year to year whenever conditions are favorable.

If the new Triple A program develops as seems likely so that the Middle West produces more stock and fattens less, one result may be a great spread between feeder stock and fat stock than now exists. If this should develop during the next ten years there will be a demand for winter fattening of a larger number of livestock.

B. Recommendations

1. Varieties Recommended

For wheat we recommend Federation on all except the heaviest yielding lands. On the very best lands we recommend Union wheat. For barley we recommend Union as a barley for hay production and Hannchen for all except the heaviest yielding lands. Where barley yields more than 60 bushels Trebi should be used. For oats we recommend Victory on the highest yielding lands and Markten on the others.

2. Rape Following Grains

Whenever grains are grown about two months of excellent pasture can be secured by seeding 4 or 5 pounds of rape with the grain.

SPECIALIZED CROPS

A. The Situation

1. County Imports Vegetables, Fruit and Seed

The county spends about \$12,000 for fresh vegetables per year, about \$4,500 for fresh fruit and an unknown amount for grass, clover and grain seed.

B. Recommendations

1. Seed Crops

We recommend that a few farmers with threshing equipment available give some attention to the development of a local seed business. Possibilities are Ladak alfalfa, Ladino clover, sweet clover, Alsike clover, white clover, orchard grass, timothy, meadow fescue. Bromo gress, crested wheat grass and tall oat grass. This would diversify the income of some people and would keep money at home.

2. Vegetables

We urge farmers living on some of the smaller irrigated farms to at least experiment with the production of vegetables for local markets only. It must be recognized that vegetables must be packaged the way the stores want them and delivered regularly as the stores need them rather than at the convenience of the grower.

3. Fruit

We recommend that a few farmers on irrigated farms give additional attention to fruit for local needs only. The old neglected orchards are a menace to growers who may want to develop this fruit supply because each neglected orchard is a breeding ground for pests and disease. Such orchards should either be taken out or cared for.

4. Berries Grow Exceptionally Well Here

A few growers could probably produce small amounts profitably for the local market only. The county agent should be consulted for recommendations as to varieties.

WEEDS

A. The Situation

1. Weeds Increasing

White top, Russian knapweed and morning glory are found here and there in the county and the patches are increasing. Quack grass is scattered more or less all up and down the valley.

B. Recommendations

1. We urge farmers to be careful in seed buying. Lots of seed offered for less than the market price are almost certain to contain seeds of noxious weeds.

2. Most of these weeds are not beyond the control stage in this county and we urge work at once on them to prevent further spread and damage to the entire irrigated portions of the county.

Dairy, Poultry & Hogs Committee Report

DAIRY COWS

The General Dairy Situation

The number of dairy cows in the United States of milking age as shown by the census has steadily increased since 1890. There have been a number of changes in numbers between the last few census periods. From 1928 until 1934 the number of cows of milking age on farms in the United States increased about three per cent per year, reaching an all-time peak of an estimated 26,185,000 early in 1934. During that period pastures and feeding conditions were below normal in all or part of the major dairy states of the country, so that production only increased one per cent per year. The 1934 drouth started a decline in dairy cattle numbers which brought them down to an estimated 24,500,000 on January 1, 1936.

The following table shows the number of dairy cows by census periods since 1890 in the United States, the eleven western states, Oregon and Grant County.

The eleven western states have for a number of years had about the same percentage of the human population of the country as there were of the dairy cows of the nation, and there has been a little net movement of dairy products between the Pacific slope and the east until 1935 when considerable eastern butter was shipped to California markets. Oregon produces a surplus of cheese and butter, marketing most of it in California. For a number of years between nine and ten million pounds of Oregon cheese have been shipped to Los Angeles and San Francisco markets, as well as from six to eight million pounds of butter. This amount of cheese is about all that



can be expected to be marketed from this state at profitable prices.

It appears that any increase in surplus dairy products of Oregon should be made with the view of producing high quality butter for those markets.

The following table shows the human population of the United States and the eleven Western States and Oregon since 1890:

During the past sixteen years, for which records are available, there has been very close relationship between the price of manufactured dairy products and the industrial payrolls of the nation. The 1936 United States Department of Agriculture Outlook Reports indicate that dairymen are planning to increase their numbers of cows, but that they now have on hand fewer heifers under two years of age than will be needed for replacements in the present national herd, so that there is no apparent prospect of an increase of dairy cow numbers for the next couple of years. However, the committee wishes to call attention to the fact that the present estimates of cow numbers shows only 700,000 less than were on hand in 1933 when 100,000,000 pounds of butter were placed in storage in excess of normal storage operations. If consumers buying power should decrease, particularly as indicated by industrial payrolls, the demand for dairy products would probably fall off and by the same reasoning, if consumers' buying power should increase, prices for dairy products should make further improvements.

#### The Situation in Grant County

There has been a small volume of dairy production in Grant County for many years. The industry has been conducted on the smaller irrigated farms of the John Day and tributary valleys. During the period from 1920 to 1925 many dairy cows were brought to the valley from western Oregon. Many of these cows, however, were those discarded by western Oregon dairymen because of Bang's disease and associated troubles.

The industry has grown more rapidly in recent years. In 1935 the county produced approximately five hundred thousand pounds of butter. This butter was manufactured in two creameries. Undoubtedly additional butter fat was shipped out of the county to manufacturing plants elsewhere.

The quality of butter produced is exceptionally good, especially when it is realized that dairying is not a major enterprise in the county. The price received has averaged about one cent below Portland market quotations. This is a very satisfactory price relationship.

There are a number of farmers operating small irrigated ranches who are running a few head of stock cattle but not enough in numbers to make a satisfactory family living or farm income. The committee believes that unless an operator has at least one hundred head of stock cattle, he would be much better off financially if he would discontinue his beef cattle operations and change his enterprise to that of dairying. The committee is unanimously of the opinion that the dairy business on the smaller irrigated farms will be much more remunerative if properly conducted than will a small stock cattle business, unless the cattle business is run in conjunction with a farm sheep enterprise.

#### Recommendations

The committee recommends that those farmers operating under the conditions described give careful consideration to the possibility of discontinuing this type of operation and of setting themselves up in the dairy business on sufficient scale to

#### NUMBER OF MILK COWS ON HAND

Year	United States	11 Western States	Oregon	Grant Co.
1920	19,675,000	1,541,000	200,000	920
1925	17,645,000	1,623,000	217,000	698
1930	23,106,000	1,814,000	229,000	2678
1935	26,236,000	2,264,000	270,000	3500 est

(1) June 1 Sources: U. S.  
 (2) April 15 (11 Western) U. S. Census Reports  
 (3) January 1  
 (4) Estimates by B. A. E. Oregon, 1920-1930, Livestock, Meat and Wool Market Statistics.

#### HUMAN POPULATION

Year	United States	11 Western States	Oregon
1890	62,947,714	3,102,269	317,704
1900	75,994,575	4,091,349	413,536
1910	91,972,266	6,825,621	672,765
1920	105,710,620	8,902,972	783,389
1925	113,483,720	10,082,261	846,061
1930	122,493,720	11,896,222	953,786
1934*	125,693,000	12,530,606	983,000

\*Estimated 1890-1920, 1930—Statistical Abstract  
 1925—World Almanac for 1926  
 1934—World Almanac for 1935

make a satisfactory living on the farm. Any such contemplated change should be based upon the production of an adequate feed supply on the farm in question.

#### Feed Requirements for Successful Dairying

Cost of production studies show conclusively that milk and cream can be produced at lower costs in irrigated regions than elsewhere. On the average it requires 3½ tons of hay, 6 months of pasture, and between 400 and 500 pounds of grain to feed a cow of milking age for twelve months in the irrigated regions. It will be seen from this that the requirements for successful dairying in the irrigated regions are mainly an adequate supply of hay and of pasture with a relatively small amount of grain. This grain can all be home grown. Satisfactory rations to go with alfalfa hay can be made from a mixture of barley and oats. The grain can also be supplemented with root crops such as beets, mangles and carrots for winter feeding. Short pasture can be supplemented with green corn. The raising of these cultivated crops will also help in controlling the weed problems of the valley.

Non-irrigated hill pasture or range lying close to the home ranch can be used advantageously during part of the year for carrying young stock and dry cows. Those now engaged in the dairy business and any contemplating entering the dairy business should base their feed calculations on these requirements. It is recommended that any expansion of the dairy business in Grant County be made on a basis of using feed which is not required by stock cattle and sheep which will continue to be the major livestock enterprise of the county. Dairy expansion should be based upon the usual surplus of feed above stock cattle requirements and the feed released when stock cattle or sheep are replaced by dairy cattle.

It is the opinion of the committee that the hay production of the county can be materially increased if water storage developments of a practical nature can be developed within reasonable cost.

#### Types of Cattle

It is as important for dairymen of Grant County to have good dairy cows as it is for dairymen in the highly developed dairy sections to have good dairy cows. A profitable dairy enterprise cannot be established with poor cows. Those engaged in the dairy business should follow the best practices of successful dairymen elsewhere. Cows of milking breeds and inheritance should be used. If one does not desire Jersey cattle which is now

the dominant breed, attention is directed to the possibilities of Brown Swiss, Milking Shorthorns, Holstein, Ayrshire, or Red Polled cattle all of which, if properly bred and handled, will be profitable in dairy herds. In choosing a breed, those who may be in a position to turn off some fairly good young beef or veal should keep in mind the type of dairy cow which lends itself best to this side line. The profits to be obtained in turning off side line beef from a dairy herd are usually of no great consequence, but they are smaller with certain types of dairy cows than with others.

The committee recognizes two methods of shifting from the stock cattle over to the dairy business. One method would be to dispose of the stock cattle and purchase a herd of dairy cows to replace them. This method will require the expenditure of a certain amount of cash, some of which might be in excess of the amount realized from the sale of the stock cattle. There is also the difficulty of purchasing good dairy cows and the possibility of getting diseased animals even with the present disease control program. However, the advantage of this method of entering the dairy business is that one would immediately realize the full benefits and advantages from the change in type of operations.

The other method would be to dispose of all but the best milking cows from the stock cattle herd, to acquire the proper kind of bull to mate with these cows and to gradually breed up from the stock cattle a herd of dairy cows. This system will require longer time to accomplish.

The method of shifting should be determined by the experience of the operator and the several factors involved in the farm set-up which would bear upon his success in the changed type of operation. Careful attention should be given to the possibilities offered by the two methods before embarking upon a change.

#### Selection of Bulls

The committee believes that as much attention should be paid to the selection of bulls of good milk producing inheritance by those who engage in the dairy business in Grant County as is paid by the selection of good bulls in the higher developed dairy sections. The committee suggests the possibility of the partnership ownership of bulls especially to those who may not be operating on large enough scale to justify their purchasing a good dairy herd sire. Neighbors living adjacent to each other can well afford to give this possibility consideration.

The committee urges that every one owning a dairy bull keep him confined to a safe keeping bull pen. Dairy bulls are all apt to become dangerous at any age. They should not be permitted to run at large or to run with the herd.

#### Shelter and Management

Careful attention to many details of management are necessary if one is to succeed in the dairy enterprise. The committee believes that proper shelter must be provided to protect the dairy cows from severe weather. Milking quarters should be arranged so as to save labor. Adequate facilities must be provided for caring for the milk and cream after it is produced. Dairy cows cannot be satisfactorily fed on the ground or in the open. The committee recommends feeding of cows in accordance with their ability to produce milk. This means the barn feeding of grain. From the experience of the members of the committee, it is recommended that attention be given to provide adequate and convenient facilities for feeding and caring for the dairy herd. In this climate warming of the drinking water for dairy cows will pay for the trouble and what little expense is involved.

#### Quality Production

As has already been pointed out the quality of butter produced in Grant County is exceptionally good. The surplus production is marketed outside the state. Any increased production must find a market outside the county and state. Most of it will ultimately find its way to California markets where it must compete with the product of the several western states and of mid-western points. This means that to find a ready market, it must be of high quality.

The production of butter of high quality begins on the farm. The cream must be properly cared for on the farm and frequently delivered to the manufacturing plant. With the adequate cooling facilities plus the advantages of climatic conditions in the county, the production of cream of high quality is largely a matter entirely within the control of the producer. The committee believes that he should equip his farm with proper arrangement for the separation and cooling of the cream until it is delivered to the manufacturing plant. There is no place for expansion of the dairy business unless it is based on the production of a quality product.

#### Herd Record Keeping

The committee does not believe it is feasible to consider the possibility of a herd improvement association in Grant County in the near future. It must be recognized, however, that no one can successfully engage in the dairy business without paying attention to the relative milk producing ability of the different cows in the herd. Cows can be effectively selected within most herds by keeping a record of the milk produced and assuming average butter fat content of the milk for the breed. It is therefore urged that all dairymen provide themselves with a modern set of milk scales and that they keep milk records on each of their cows. To be profitable, the average Jersey cow should produce at least 6,000 pounds of milk per year. Those of the larger breeds should produce at least 8,000 pounds.

#### Growing Young Stock

The average cost of raising dairy heifers to milking age during a period of four years, when cost studies were made, was in excess of the average market price of heifers during the same period. At the present writing the same condition exists. While dairymen are urged



to raise their own replacements they should be careful only to raise heifers from their best cows.

The committee believes that on many farms in Grant County the cost of raising heifers is much lower than the average for the state or than many regions in the state.

This is particularly true where non-irrigated hill pasture or out-range is available. The committee recommends that serious consideration be given this possibility by those whose facilities seem to meet the necessary requirements. The committee urges careful study of the Experiment Station bulletin analyzing the cost of raising heifers.

### POULTRY

Grant County in 1930 had 632 farms; 535 of these farms (85%) reported poultry; 440 farms (82%) reported poultry flocks of less than 50 hens—a home table set-up; 80 farms reported more than 50 hens but less than 100. For a short period, these flocks under normal care might have a few surplus eggs above home needs. Fifteen farms reported more than 100 hens and only one of these reported as many as 400 hens.

There is one commercial poultry farm in the county, and except for the spring season, eggs are shipped into the county from the outside to meet the needs of local consumption. The value of chickens and eggs produced by the county in 1930 was only \$66,000. The value of chickens and eggs sold was \$17,000 showing that the bulk of both chickens and eggs was consumed on the farm.

The population of the entire county is about 6,000 people. It would be very easy to over-supply local needs and create a surplus market situation. That would be worse than the present under supply condition. Commercial poultry flocks are closely associated with small acreage farms where intensive production is necessary to get gross income.

The committee believes that there may be an economic need for more home table farm flocks or subsistence flocks on certain types of Grant County farms. Most of the poultry flocks now on the farms are not properly housed, fed, culled, or given efficient care. The average farm flock is too small a part of the total farm enterprise to justify much more care than it now receives.

As long as Grant County produces less eggs than it consumes, the local price to growers (who do have eggs to sell) is based upon Portland prices plus the freight on eggs to Portland. Should an increase in poultry result in producing a surplus of eggs above local needs, the price will be lowered to the Portland price, minus transportation costs.

Due to high freight rate on supplies into the county and high charges to ship eggs out plus the general nature of agriculture in the county, it is probably best to remain an under produced market.

The committee believes that Grant County producers cannot produce eggs and ship to Portland in competition with western Oregon. It cannot ship to Baker economically for that market is usually low because of under grade eggs from Idaho Cooperative Poultry Association and other interests. The committee recommends that as a subsistence type of agriculture, the increase of home table flocks is worthy of consideration, but that if surplus eggs above local needs are produced the expansion would be short-lived and unsound. There is some opportunity for a few individuals to produce a quality egg and cater to the home trade because the quality of many imported eggs is frequently low as is the quality of

eggs from miscellaneous farm flocks.

The committee finds that Oregon, Idaho, Utah, California, and Washington are all surplus producing regions. There is no promising outside market outlet for surplus farm eggs should this condition develop within Grant County.

### Turkey Industry

The committee believes that there is possibly a limited field for the production of turkeys in the county. An operator entering the turkey business, however, should proceed with caution. It will be necessary for him to ship much of his feed in from the outside of the county. He should have adequate and satisfactory range for the birds and should keep in mind that this is a highly competitive field. Ordinarily, the farmer should receive from 18c to 20c a pound for his birds in order to show a profit. There is a possibility that this next year there will be an over-production of turkeys. The committee finds that while there may be a possibility of a very few individuals under special conditions engaging successfully in this commercial production of turkeys, that as a principle, the development of the industry in this county is open to question.

### HOGS

Grant County does not produce all the pork it consumes. Considerable fresh pork in addition to a large amount of cured, is shipped into the county. However, the volume of product shipped into the county is hardly considered sufficient by the committee to justify any great expansion of the industry to meet those particular demands as the grain requirements for the production of pork are high.

The committee recommends that any expansion of the hog industry should be as a side line to the dairy industry. When pigs are not on alfalfa or similar pasture a good rule to follow is to keep one pig per cow. When pigs are on pasture, from two to three pigs can be kept for each gallon of skim milk available. Alfalfa will pasture approximately twenty pigs to the acre during the pasture season. In addition to the pasture it will require about 350 pounds of grain to produce one hundred pounds of pork. This grain will include some protein supplement and skimmed milk.

### Recommendations

It is suggested by the committee that Grant County can profitably produce enough hogs to consume all farm waste, including the skimmed milk that is produced.

In order to take care of the home market now supplied from out of the county sources, it is apparently necessary to have more adequate slaughtering and storing facilities than are now available. This is particularly true if the county is to supply all of the fresh pork now shipped in.

The committee also believes that there is a possibility of producing more cured meat for use on the farms. The committee believes due to the relative higher cost of producing pork beyond the requirements of the county, that any expansion in this enterprise should be made with caution. Such expansion should be based upon a cheap and adequate supply of feed. If it is planned to sell additional pork locally any expansion should be based upon a certainty that the local market will receive and utilize the increased production. The committee believes that those who have been producing surplus pork and shipping it to out of the county markets have no doubt developed this business on a basis of economical production.

## Agricultural Economics Committee Report

### Sources of Agricultural Income

Grant County depends to a greater extent upon the income from livestock than does any other county in Oregon; 77.5% of its total farm income being derived from sales of beef cattle and sheep. Dairy products make up approximately 8% of the county total.

Cash sales of field crops run to slightly more than 11% of the county total but a considerable part of the income under this classification is derived from the sale of alfalfa hay to beef and sheep operators, hence is essentially a part of the livestock income. Revenue from other than field crops, from poultry and eggs, and from other livestock, is all but insignificant.

Additional data relative to sources of agricultural income are carried by table A attached hereto.

### Agricultural Development

In common with all other Eastern Oregon counties the number of farms in Grant County increased sharply following the passage of the 1909 and 1916 Homestead Acts. 1920 showed a total of 728 farms. Owing to the inexperience of many homesteaders and to the fact that their holdings did not make economic units, abandonment of homesteads and combining of such properties with adjacent lands reduced the total number of farms from 728 in 1920 to 591 in 1925. The number has risen in the last eleven years. Since 1920 there has been a very sharp reduction in the number of farms ranging in size from 100 to 1,000 acres but especially from 100 to 500 acres. During the same period the number of farms of 1,000 acres and upward increased from a total of 144 in 1920 to 230 in 1930. Here again we see the effect of abandonment of homesteads and their being combined with older holdings.

The improved land in farms has changed only slightly in the last twenty years, being not far from 90,000 acres. Whereas almost exactly one-third of the total land area of the county is in farms, only 3.1% of the land area is classified as improved land in farms. Of this 3.1% but slightly more than one-third of it is irrigated land.

It is clear that the dependable tax in Grant County, namely the improved land in farms and especially the irrigated land coming within this classification, is very small compared to the total land area. This narrow tax base tends to become smaller as timber lands are

cut off and revert to county title, and as dredging operations proceed in the John Day Valley.

Additional data on land resources are carried in Table B and C attached.

### Land Ownership

In looking ahead to the agricultural development in a region the ownership of the land is highly important. Land in private ownership is more or less flexible as to its use whereas properties in public ownership, notably that owned by the federal government, probably will not be featured by any such flexibility.

More than 54.85% of the total land area of Grant County is owned by the public. State and county lands amount to less than 1%. The national forest covers over 48% of the county total while other federal lands, mostly unappropriated public domain, make up 8%.

Land in farms, totaling slightly less than 1,000,000 acres, amount to 34% of the total, while other privately-owned land, for the most part timber properties, amount to 8.7% of the total.

Additional information on land ownership is carried in Table D.

### Game Animals in Relation to Domestic Livestock

Your committee is of the conviction that one of the most important agricultural problems facing Grant County in the next few years is the working out of an appropriate balance between wildlife and the domestic livestock, which domestic livestock make up some 87% of the total agricultural income of the county. Forage eating game animals constitute a natural resource of importance to the county, and Grant County stockmen are favorable to maintenance of such a game population as will not seriously jeopardize the revenue from our basic livestock enterprises. However, the unhampered increase of deer especially has been so great in recent years that we feel the welfare of livestock operators not only is being jeopardized but that the game population already has made serious inroads in the agricultural income and tax paying ability of the county.

In principle we subscribe to the thought that game animals well may be maintained at such numbers that they are able to winter and winter well on publicly-owned lands. The present game population is far beyond the limits suggested inasmuch as all ranchers located upon streams tributary to the John Day river find themselves carrying large numbers of game throughout the winter, the spring and summer months. Not only are the feed supplies of these ranchers operating on their own lands seriously depleted but very great injury is done to hay and to grain crops not only by the feeding of the deer but by their trampling it under foot.

It goes without saying that the numbers of livestock that operators are able to carry upon their own lands is reduced to a marked degree by this increase in game population and hence automatically the agricultural income of the county is being reduced.

Your committee wishes to make it plain that it feels that there is a very proper place for game animals in Grant County, that such game makes up a very important natural resource, further, that livestock operators are favorable to closer cooperation with hunters and with sportsmen's organizations all to the end that a proper balance may be worked out between wildlife and domestic stock.

TABLE A

### 1926-1930 Average Cash Farm Income

Tabulated by the Oregon State Agricultural College Extension Service.

1926-1930 Average Cash	
Farm Income .....	\$2,360,000
Per Cent From Sale of	
All Crop Products: .....	13.5
Field Crops .....	11.1
Truck Crops .....	
Tree Fruits and Nuts .....	
Small Fruits, Nursery,	
Greenhouse, etc. ....	2.3
Per Cent From Sale of	
All Animal Products: .....	86.5
Poultry and Eggs .....	.6
Dairy Products .....	8.2
Livestock and Products* .....	77.5
Other Animal Products** .....	.1

\*Includes cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, hogs, wool, horses, mohair.

\*\*Includes rabbits, fur animals, honey.



### Proposal for Regulating Animal Numbers by Restricted Grazing on Federally Controlled Lands

Your committee has examined the proposal of the National Cooperative Council, passed at its last annual meeting and reading as follows:

"The grazing use of land under control of the Federal Government should be controlled so as to regulate cattle and sheep production in harmony with our market requirements and in the interest of maintaining more stable price structures for these classes of livestock as well as in the interest of protecting the grazing lands from overstocking."

This resolution was offered by C. A. Ewing, president of the National Livestock Marketing Association, with headquarters at Chicago. Were it not for the voting power of those regions apparently favorable to action along this line, your committee would not give the proposal a second thought. Let us point out that the public land states have a very small proportion of the total beef numbers in the entire nation. Even in the public land states not all nor nearly all the beef animals are grazed on federal controlled lands. The proposal thus would unload upon a small percentage of the total beef population the necessity for taking up the slack in livestock numbers for the entire county. The proposal is so inequitable that it appeals to your committee as scarcely other than fantastic. However, the National Cooperative Council is a responsible national organization of cooperative associations and frequently has made its presence felt in national legislative affairs.

The effect upon sheep operators would not be so sharp and so disastrous as upon cattle since the public land states have a much larger proportion of the total numbers of sheep than they do in the case of cattle. The state of Texas has no federal land within its boundaries hence the other western states would be all the more injured owing to the fact that Texas with its heavy population both of sheep and of cattle would not be affected.

### Proposed Increase of Forage Resources

While your committee is disposed to approve of the activities of the agricultural administration in meeting the truly desperate crisis of 1933 and 1934, we are more than a little concerned at the probable effect upon livestock operators of national legislation now about to be given effect. The announced intention of the administration under legislation passed early this month is to replace 30,000,000 acres of "soil depleting crops" with an equal area of "grasses and legumes" of which there is alleged to be no surplus. We point out for your consideration that there exists a certain balance between feed resources and livestock numbers. Any disturbance of this balance can not but affect favorably or otherwise the welfare of livestock operators, beef, sheep and dairymen. We urge upon the administration the absolute necessity of so regulating the lands diverted from soil depleting crops to pasture and forage crops that the detrimental effect upon these classes of livestock operators may not offset the beneficial effects to producers of cotton, of corn, of wheat and other soil depleting crops.

### Destruction of Land by Dredging

The attention of your committee has been drawn to a proposed plan advanced by the Baker County Agricultural Outlook Conference in session March 10 and 11, 1936, and providing for protection of the tax revenue to the county and state incidental to the destruction of agri-

**TABLE B**  
Agricultural Development

Census of	All Land in Farms	Number of	Av. Size of Farms	Improved Land in Farms	Land in Farms
1880	Acres	%	Acres	Acres	%
1890					
1900	316,346	10.9	697	453.9	41,222
1910	145,170	15.4	773	575.9	53,045
1920	750,160	25.9	728	1,030.4	74,729
1925	758,160	26.2	591	1,284.2	92,214
1930	899,329	31.1	632	1,423.0	81,009
1935	985,975	34.1	710	1,388.7	90,466

Note—Part of Grant taken with parts of Gilliam and Crook to form Wheeler in 1899. Total area of county now is 2,892,800 acres.

Source—U. S. Census of Agriculture, retabulated by O. S. C. Extension Service from "Statistics of Agricultural Development in Oregon."

**TABLE C**  
Trend in Size of Farms, Grant County, Oregon

	Number of Farms	% of All Farms	Av. Acres per Farm	Av. Acres Harvested per Farm
All Farms, 1920	728	100	1,030.4	
1925	591	100	1,284.2	74.2
1930	632	100	1,423	81
Under 3 Acres				
1920				
1925				
1930	9	1.4	1	.22
3 to 9 Acres				
1920	4	.55	5	
1925	4	.68	5.8	2.8
1930	3	.47	3.7	1.5
10 to 19 Acres				
1920	1	.14	10	
1925	7	1.2	12.3	5.1
1930	7	1.1	12.9	6.6
20 to 49 Acres				
1920	16	2.2	32.9	
1925	17	2.9	32.7	12.2
1930	10	1.6	37.7	17.6
50 to 99 Acres				
1920	21	2.9	76.4	
1925	16	2.7	71.8	27
1930	29	4.6	73.9	25.6
100 to 174 Acres				
1920	112	15.4	153.2	
1925	73	12.4	151.3	29.6
1930	69	10.9	149.8	29.7
175 to 259 Acres				
1920	52	7.1	218.7	
1925	39	6.6	219.8	43.1
1930	28	4.4	219.7	47.5
260 to 499 Acres				
1920	212	29.1	364.6	
1925	110	18.6	364.4	37
1930	104	16.5	369.5	46
500 to 999 Acres				
1920	166	22.8	710.9	
1925	149	25.2	716.8	55.5
1930	143	22.6	695.7	53.3
1000 to 4999 Acres				
1920	123	16.9	1,972.73	
1925	152	25.7	1,975.1	115.7
1930	200	31.6	1,958.5	116
5000 Acres and Over				
1920	21	2.9	13,405.4	
1925	24	4.1	12,101.1	391.8
1930	30	4.7	11,686.4	398.8

Source of data: U. S. Census of 1920, 1925 and 1930. Tabulated by Oregon State Agricultural College Extension Service.

**TABLE D**  
Land Ownership Grant County, Oregon

Source of date: Forest Statistics and 1935 census of Agriculture. Tabulated by the Oregon State Agricultural College Extension Service.

	Acres	% of County Area
Total County Area*	2,892,800	100.0
Privately Owned Land, Total	1,236,982	42.8
Land in Farms	985,975	34.0
Other Private Owned Land	251,007	8.7
Public Lands, Total	1,655,818	57.2
State Lands	16,715	.6
County Lands	9,690	.3
National Forest	1,397,389	48.3
Other Federal Lands	232,024	8.0

\*The total area for the county as determined by this survey does not always agree with hitherto accepted total area data.

and place little confidence in it. We grant that the destruction of agricultural land augurs ill for the future especially when the relation between improved land, and more especially the relationship between irrigated land and the total land area is as it is in Grant County. Not only is the tax base narrowed materially but the use of tributary grazing lands is affected by this destruction of hay and meadow properties. It is obvious that the effect is to raise the levies on the remaining tax payers.

### Agricultural Credit

Borrowed capital is necessary in any livestock region for making gains within a lifetime. It is not the use of borrowed capital that is to be condemned but the abuses that have occurred. It is common knowledge that during periods of substantial or high prices operators tend to over-borrow relative to the equities they have in their own property. It seems that such obligations must be liquidated for the most part during periods of lower prices, periods when liquidation frequently takes the original equities of the borrowers.

It is worth while pointing out that loans are extended primarily against the earnings of a business and not against any security that may be possessed. Collateral is called for solely as a guarantee that a loan will be paid even though the anticipated earnings may not materialize. One may have a substantial showing of property and yet be a poor credit risk for the reason that he can not show sufficient earnings from which to pay a loan.

The activities of the Farm Credit Administration have been reviewed briefly and in general your committee feels that the administration is to be commended for the activities in the field of agricultural finance. One reservation is made, though. We feel that the operations of the Federal Land Bank by all means should be simplified and that the time necessary for making a loan should and can be reduced. To some considerable extent the services of the Federal Land Bank are weakened by the long delay in getting loans through. It is the further observation of your committee that Federal Land Bank loans do not seem to be sufficiently related to the character of the borrower. Not only have loans been made to individuals that other and better acquainted credit institutions would regard as hazardous, but loans have been denied others of excellent standing in their community and whose properties would amply support the amount applied for.

Government credit under the Farm Credit Administration is more in name than effect as, with the single exception of the so-called "commissioner's loans" the emergency crop loans, funds loaned are not government capital at all but are derived from private sources. The Federal Land Bank obtains its funds by the sale of its bonds to the investing public and posts mortgages taken on farm lands as collateral to guarantee the payment of these bonds. The Intermediate Credit Bank obtains funds by the sale of its notes or debentures to the public. The bank for cooperatives and the production credit associations discount the notes taken from cooperative associations and individual farm borrowers with the Intermediate Credit Bank, thus reaching the private money markets of the country. It is the conviction of your committee that the Farm Credit Administration should so conduct its business that the integrity of the securities issued to make funds available to agricultural borrowers may never be brought to question.

cultural lands by dredging for gold. The proposal of the Baker County conference is that whoever engages in the dredging operation be placed under legal obligation to pay a stipulated sum, say \$100.00, into the county treasury for each acre destroyed for agricultural purposes.

This fund would be invested and the revenue therefrom used as an offset for the tax revenue lost incidental to the dredging operation.

While your committee is sympathetic with the objective sought by the Baker committee we doubt the constitutionality of the proposal