SOLVE EGG-MARKETING PROBLEM THROUGH CO-OPERATIVE METHODS

Co-operative Marketing Has Made Egg Production a Business Instead of a "Side Line" With Many Poultrymen.

Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.

From 26 local egg circles which left the problem still unsolved, to a state-wide egg-marketing association with central offices in Portland, is the step taken by poultrymen in Oregon in solving the egg-marketing problems. The story, officials of the bureau of markets and crop estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture believe, points a lesson for egg producers in other parts of the country. Recent reports of the success of the association were received by them with much interest, as being an outgrowth of community egg circles along lines advocated by the department.

Egg circles, they say, are good to start small groups of producers along the right course, but do not solve the larger egg-marketing problems, for as soon as a circle grows to such a size as to handle a half carload of eggs it becomes a real business proposition.

Handle Eggs for Few Producers.

The circles in Oregon were organized in the leading poultry-producing sections and each operated independently of the others for a while, selling their eggs to Portland produce dealers or to private customers, such as hotels and restaurants. They found however, that they were still helpless and had very little control over their products. Some eight or ten circles near Salem co-operated through the Salem circle manager, but the business was so small it was not very encouraging. Things went from bad to worse, and it was decided to form an exchange with offices in Portland to which all the circles could consign their eggs.

This move was ridiculed by produce dealers, for they knew the farmers were not under contract with the circles or the exchange; the dealers, therefore, would be able to obtan their supply of eggs by offering higher prices at the country buying points than the exchange could realize on the market. During the egg-storage season some of the firms paid more in the country, and, as they predicted, the exchange practically failed, and it appeared for a time that co-operation in the poultry business was at an end in Oregon.

A study was made of the Poultry Producers' association of central California, which was more successful, and as a result after a year's effort, the Oregon producers launched forth again to do their own business on a new basis. A state-wide membership campaign was undertaken, and the producers were asked to join the association and sign a three-year contract, or marketing agreement, whereby their whole production was to be delivered to the association to be marketed. These contracts and the storage of surplus production during the storage season placed the association in position to be an important factor in the Portland market.

Modern methods of grading, packing and standardization were adopted, and all eggs are now candled and graded into three classes. Those which are of the finest quality are put under the Diamond brand, while No. 2's, which contain off colors, undersized and off-shaped eggs, are graded out; No. 3's are sold to the bakery trade. The business during the year was expected to reach a volume of approximately 2,000,000 dozen.

During the present season the association has shipped several cars each week to eastern markets, thus keeping the Portland market clear of surplus and in a stable condition. The success of the association has been so great and the increase in business so rapid that as recently as February no new members were being admitted, although applications at the rate of 30 a day were received. The reason for closing the membership temporarily was that they were storing eggs and the finances of the association did not permit handling additional supplies from new members.

Organized on Co-operative Basis.

The association is organized on a co-operative basis, with both common and preferred stock. Each member is obliged to purchase a $10 share of common stock for each 100 hens or fraction thereof. The preferred stock carries no vote and is limited to an 8 per cent cumulative dividend. Some $40,000 preferred stock has been sold and is being retired by a levy of one-half cent on each dozen eggs. The operating expenses of the association are paid out of a charge of 3 cents for each dozen eggs received.

So successful has been this association in the southern portion of the state that a similar organization has been formed, with headquarters at Ashland.

The Department of Agriculture is encouraging egg producers in other parts of the country to form similar associations for disposing of their wares. The success of the Oregon organization, it believes, can be achieved in any other community where the producers go about it in a business-like fashion. Organized marketing along right lines, it says, has been found to be satisfactory to all concerned.

SELECTING BEAN AND PEA SEED IN AUTUMN

Choose Plants Alike in Varietal Character and Earliness.

When Plants Have Fully Ripened Avoid Shattering in Pulling and Hang in Airy, Dry Place Until Seed Is Quite Hard.

Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The best seed of beans and peas is to be obtained by marking a few of the finest plants with a bit of cloth at the beginning of the harvesting season and allowing the crop of these plants to ripen completely, say experts of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In making such selections it is best to choose plants alike in varietal character and earliness. When ripened until dry, pull these plants in the early morning, in order to avoid shattering, and hang or spread them in an airy, dry place until the seed is quite hard. Then shell the seed, spread it out not over two or three grains deep, and when thoroughly dry, store it for the winter in bags of coarse open-meshed fabric hung in a cool, dry place.

Pods which for any reason have been overlooked when picking beans or peas for the table should be saved, since they can be shelled for seed, though inferior to the selected stock described above. In saving seed from remnant crops of this kind it is well to discard all pods containing only one or two seeds, as these may have come from plants with a tendency to produce poorly filled pods.

Some very destructive bean diseases, including pod-spot, are carried in the seed; so it is extremely important to observe the general rule that no seed should be saved from diseased plants when saving beans for seed. Never save seed from pods which are not bright and clean.

HANDLING BRUSSELS SPROUTS

Considered by Some as Superior to Cabbage Because of Its Milder Flavor.

There seems to be a growing appreciation of brussels sprouts, which some consider much superior to cabbage because of its milder flavor. The fact is not always realized, though, that the brussels sprouts can be kept long in the winter. It is only necessary to dig them up and take them indoors when cold weather comes, setting the roots in earth in boxes or on the cellar bottom. This can be done even if some of the sprouts have been removed, and, of course, they should be taken off as fast as they grow large enough for use.

SCATTER GRAN FOR POULTRY

Proper Way to Give Feed to Hens Is Distribute It Over a Large Surface.

Some hens are gluttons, and in their greediness will seize food to prevent other hens from securing their share. Those are the hens that become overfat and finally quit laying. When food is given in a way that permits the hens to eat without having to scratch, there is sure to be an unequal distribution of the food among the fowls of the flock. The proper way is to scatter the grain over a large surface so that each hen will be compelled to work, and all will fare alike.

CORRESPONDENCE

DES LACS

Mrs. Kettleson, Jr. and Sr., were at Thief River Falls, Minn., this week, taking treatments with a noted doctor of that place.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Anderson spent Tuesday night with Mr. and Mrs. Leo Kittleson.

A shower was held for Mrs. Casper Anderson on Monday, a large crowd attended and Mrs. Anderson received many useful gifts from her many friends.

A birthday surprise was held for Roy Shaffer on Tuesday evening with the usual result. All in attendance were royally entertained.

Mrs. Beulah (Vance) Scott and daughter are spending a short time here among their many friends before going on to their home in Canada.

J. F. Moyer and Shannon Waggoner shipped a carload of sheep on Friday of this week.

There will be about ten or twelve carloads of cattle shipped out of Des Lacs just as soon as cars can be secured. Buck Stivick expects to ship a carload of horses.

Mrs. Tracy has been helping her sister, Mrs. Spicher, prepare for the sale.

Sheriff Spicher had a record breaking sale on Thursday, owing to the season of the year and the excellent weather the attendance was greater than at any sale before in this community. Everything sold well considering the financial condition of the buyers. Horses sold from $92 down. Cows, $67 down. One wagon brought $20 more than a new wagon. Albert had on his usual broad smile and we believe he was well pleased.

Rev. Olson preached in the M. E. church Sunday morning and evening.

Albert Spicher, wife and family spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roberts.

John Soltis moved on to the Spicher farm this week.

The fine weather still continues we sure must be in the tropical regions as warm as it is these days.

The Des Lacs oil well has everything going again with a night and day crew of men. They are now drilling in limestone rock with every indication better than before. Strange to say the majority of the people here are unconcerned and scarcely know that work is being done at the well. One must almost go away from home to find out the home news.

The roads have gone through a treatment with the road drag and are almost passable again.

RYDER

The annual sale and supper of the Lutheran church was held Saturday, November 25.

Cold weather and bad roads have kept many people at home these days.

Chris Olsen of Hiddenwood left last week for Thief River Falls, Minn., where he will take treatment for rheumatism from Dr. Kirby.

The regular meeting of the W. C. T. U. was held Friday. There was a large attendance and a very interesting program rendered. Two new members were added to the union.

The roads are rough traveling and it is impossible for the farmers to do much hauling. This will relieve the condition of the elevators.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Granum a baby boy, Sunday, Nove. 19.

Hugh Hanlon arrived home from Wisconsin Saturday.

Miss Anna Gilbertson of Ryder and Elmer C. Anderson of Roseglen were married at Minot Saturday, Nov. 25. Their many friends extend congratulations and best wishes.

Dan Casley of Minot was a Ryder visitor Saturday.

The marriage of Lyle L. Smith of Fargo and Miss Marion Olson of Ryder took place at 10 o'clock Saturday, Nov. 18, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Olson. Rev. T. S. Stockdal officiated.

A Practical Christmas Gift

There is nothing will please a man or a woman more than a cabinet of our beautiful stationery, consisting of 250 sheets of the highest grade paper and 250 envelopes, packed in a very attractive cabinet.

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The Ward County Independent.

$100,000 FIRE AT LARIMORE

Larimore, N. D.—Fire, believed to have originated in the basement, completely destroyed the Wisner block here tonight causing a loss estimated at more than $100,000 and forcing several postoffice employes to leap thru windows when the flames cut off their exit thru the halls.

The two-story brick building housed the postoffice, the Larimore Mercantile company department store, the I. O. O. F. hall, a pool room, a shoe repair shop and the offices of several professional men. The fire totally destroyed the interior, only part of the brick walls remaining. All mail in the postoffice was burned.

Paper Election to Be Contested Now

Election of the Lisbon Free Press as the official county newspaper of Ransom county is being contested by the Ransom County Farmers' Press company, publishers of the Enderlin Independent, which has for three years past been the official paper, on the grounds that the corrupt practices act was violated.

The charge alleges that the Lisbon paper promised in advertisements, if elected, that copies of the issue containing the delinquent tax list would be furnished free to every taxpayer in the county. According to the Enderlin paper this is a bribe and is a violation of the law.

UNDERWOOD TIMES BURNED

Underwood, N. D., Nov. 22.—An early morning fire, believed due to a stove explosion, destroyed the Times, weekly newspaper here and also a millinery store next door, belonging to the Misses Carrie Hultberg and Ellen Anderson. The editor, Ira Surber, states he probably will not publish the paper at present, but that he may procure another printing plant and resume publication of the paper next spring.

Editors Never Grow Old

A. W. Mavis, editor of the Wolford Mirror states that he disagrees with Dr. Osler's dictum that man outgrows his usefulness after reaching the age of 60. Mr. Mavis besides editing the Mirror sets the type and attends all the duties connected with the publication. All this at the ripe age of 72 years. Then, to keep out of mischief, he is writing a book entitled "Life in the Forest", being a narrative dealing with his early experiences as a pioneer here in the west. Mr. Mavis is hale and hearty and as active as a yearling colt.

Newman, the Hypnotist Visits Minot

Newmann, the old time hypnotist, is visiting with friends in Minot this week. For more than twenty years he has been entertaining the folks in the western states, coming to Minot more than 20 years ago when Bert Bacon managed the old Jacobson opera house. In those days when the crowd would be especially pleased, they would stamp their feet, usually bringing down loose patches of plaster from the ceiling. Newmann now resides at Billings, Mont., near which place he owns a good sized ranch in the oil district.

In District Court

The case of the International Harvester Co. vs. the Osborne-McMillan Elevator Co., growing out of a lien on grain, was taken by Judge Moellring from the jury. He has not yet rendered his decision.

W. M. Bailey who sued Allen O'Dell for wages was awarded $73.35.

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