## **Oregonians Are Farm Family Of The Year**

The James R. Ottoman family of Malin, Ore., is the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) National Farm Family of the Year, Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz announced last week.

"Mr. and Mrs. Ottoman were city people who returned to the land and made outstanding progress as farmers. They also have become leaders in their community," Butz said.

James R. Ottoman and his wife Patricia live on a farm about two and a half miles northeast of Malin, Ore. where they raise potatoes, hay, and small grain. They have three children, daughters Kristi, 26, and Dana, 20, and son Jim, 24. The Ottomans were selected after a year-long competition conducted by FmHA, the rural credit service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Beginning with thousands of farm families from all across the country, cornpetition was narrowed to state winners, then to five national contestants, and finally to the Ottoman family of Oregon.

The other four national finalists were (in alphabetical order of states):

The James D. Porter family, alfalfa and barley farmers, of Cortez, Colo.

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The Herman Riley family, beef cattle ranchers, of installed a good irrigation volunteers for blood banks, Mountainair, N.M. The Charles C. Tann applied gypsum to reduce and the United Givers Fund. family, general crops and the alkali content caused by All three children have swine production, of Rich

Square, N.C. family, dairy farmers, of Exeland, Wis.

Year contest is conducted treatment of the land. each year to recognize and honor the family that has improved its own situation ministration for financial and contributed to its assistance in 1958 when they community through its own received a farm ownership resources and assistance from FmHA," the farm ownership loan in 1967 Secretary said.

Although they both were raised in the city of Klamath Falls, James and Patricia FmHA in 1961 to enlarge and did well at farming 80 acres improve their home. of government leased land. After two years they bought their own farm - a 40 acre firm belief that the land is clover field with no im- not to be exploited, but provements, many ditches, a improved for future high water table, but with generations. As Jim and Pat excellent sandy loam soil.

Through diligent and persistent efforts, they for buildings and water and transformed the open field soil improvements. into a productive farm, and over the years they gradually improved and improvements, have inincreased their farm-land creased the productivity of holdings. In 1955 they pur- their farm. The Ottoman's chased another tract of 72 largest crop is potatoes, with acres and in 1967 an ad- 115 acres yielding 380 sacks ditional 55 acres, giving per acre. They also raise 18 them a total of 167 acres. They also rent and farm 90 acres.

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system, laid drain tiles, and the high water table. Mr. Ottoman has carefully and The Bernard Sihsmann correctly applied fertilizer to the land whenever necessary and rotated his crops for the "The Farm Family of the best yields and the best

> Jim and Pat first turned to the Farmers Home Adwith loan. They received another to purchase their last section of farm-land. In addition they got a home loan from

One of the guiding tenets of the Ottoman family is the plan each year's operating budget, funds are put aside

Good farm practices, along with soil and water acres of alfalfa averaging 5 tons per acre and 56 acres of barley averaging 2-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tons per acre.

Both Pat and Jim strongly feel the necessity to develop a strong community. Jim is a director of the Klamath Basin Water Users Association, the Klamath **Experiment Farm Advisory** Board, the Oregon Water Resources Association and a member of the Oregon Potato Commission Advertising Committee and the Klamath County School Budget Committee. In the past he has served as president of the Malin Chamber of Commerce, Klamath Basin Potato Growers Association, the Klamath Basin Water Users, and commander of the Malin Post American Legion. He also belongs to several social and agricultural organizations and is a Malin

Over the years they have President. She regularly cancer and heart fund drives held class and student body offices, attended Boys or

Girls State and received their 10 year pins in 4-H. Of the other finalists:

The James Porter family farmed rented land for five years, then bought a 160-acre farm in 1966, another 160 acres in 1971, and 110 acres in 1972. Along with good farming practices, Mr. Porter's jack-of-all-trades ability has enabled him to meet the demands of modern farming with innovative approaches.

The Herman Riley family started in 1960 with \$25 in cash and an old pick-up truck. Today they own 1,105 acres, 112 head of beef cattle, a modern farm house, and a complete line of farm equipment. Mr. Riley developed spinal arthritis in 1961 which becomes more crippling each year. The efforts of the entire Riley family have enabled them to become successful family farmers.

The Charles Tann family has overcome fire losses, weather disasters, poor health, and lack of education to become successful farmers and respected members of their community. Starting practically from zero, they now farm 435 acres, including a swine operation of 75 brood sows. They have strongly emphasized education for all of their eight children.

The Bernard Sihsmann family immigrated from Poland and worked in New York City before starting as farmers. Although both lacked farming experience, and Mr. Sihsmann was partially disabled because of the loss of one eye, their hard work, shrewd management and dedication to farming have made them highly successful dairy farmers. A panel of seven nationally

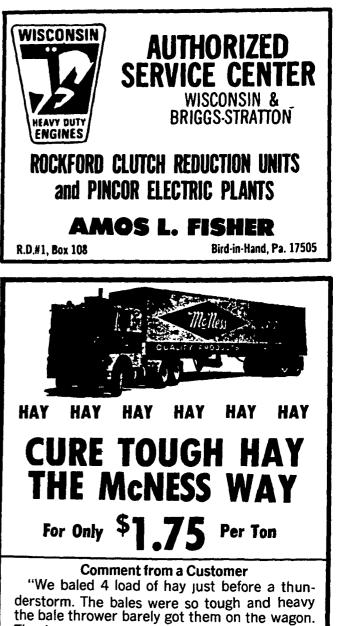
prominent judges made the final selection of the Farm Family of the Year. The judges were: Kenneth N. Probasco of Worthington, Ohio, chairman of the

Association of Vocational Home Economics Teachers: Julian V. Fowler of Alaska, 1973 FmHA Farm Family of the Year; Rudolph Pruden of Washington, D.C., USDA Extension Service; Gus R. Douglas of Charleston, W. Va., president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture; Rex G. Plowman of Lewiston, Utah, chairman of

the Agricultural Bankers Division of the American Bankers Association.

State winning farm families receive a plaque, and the national winner and expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from the farm equipment manufacturer, Sperry New Holland of New Holland, Pa.

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