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### COUNTY SHOULD PRODUCE MORE SHEEP, GOATS

That more sheep and goats should be raised in Douglas County, but that the beef and cattle lines of livestock should not be increased except in cases where conditions are ideal, are the recommendations made by the livestock group at the Agricultural Economic conference. The high cost of beef production, together with market conditions, discourage further expansion, the committee says. Hogs should be raised only in sufficient quantity to use up waste freight rates make it impracticable to bring in feed.

Sheep offer the greatest opportunity, and the committee encourages, particularly, the raising of lambs and urges that steps be taken to make "Umpqua Lamb" a feature on hotel menus.

Goats are also advised as a livestock venture, while the committee urges the raising of more horses.

The committee's report in full is as follows:

The beef cattle situation in the United States during the last few years has experienced a difficult period. This condition appears at this time to be somewhat relieved. There has been a reduction in the number of beef cattle in Oregon during the last five years amounting to 16 per cent. This reduction will apparently carry through the seven Western states. On the other hand the same per capita consumption of beef has been maintained. This reduction in numbers should eventually assist the producer to get a little better price for his cattle. The present competition which comes from the meat furnished through worn of dairy cows is a heavy blow to the beef interest. There is need at this time to establish the sale of beef on a quality basis. Production costs are high. The average calf crop on Eastern Oregon ranges is 65 per cent and the physical losses run as high as 10 per cent.

Sheep production is important to the agriculture of Douglas County. The world conditions are favorable at this time for a continued production on the present plane. This is borne out by the fact, that expansion in a large way in the world is out of the question, because of the fact that all of the cheap range lands have been taken up. The influence of high prices during the last few years has resulted in an increase in numbers of farm sheep. There has also been a tendency for beef cattle growers to change to sheep production in the range area. This may result in an increased number of sheep and eventually lower prices. However, over a period of years the industry stands on a firm basis because of the fact that the United States is a heavy importer of wool.

The high price of fine wool since the war has resulted in a

somewhat less demand, with this has come a strengthening of the market for coarser wools.

Cost of production figures gathered in Western Oregon show that the average ewe will pay the farmer \$5.00 a year for the feed she consumes. Out of this must come the taxes and interest on the land needed to produce the feed.

The hog situation in the state shows a shortage. That is Oregon produces about half of the pork that is consumed within the state. This is due to the fact that not enough feed grains are produced within the state to finish hogs. Consequently they must be produced in smaller numbers on waste feeds such as skim milk, grain stubble, etc. The freight on enough grain from the middle west to produce 100 pounds of pork is about double the freight on 100 pounds of live hog. Production costs show that in order to make a profit in hog production on grain alone the price of 100 pounds of hog live weight must be the same as the cost of 616 pounds of grain. With these facts in mind the livestock group has gone into the study of the beef cattle, sheep and hog problems in Douglas County.

#### Beef Cattle.

The census figures show that Douglas County carries around 10,000 cattle on the ranches, logged off lands, and in the Forest Reserve. Cost figures show that it requires around \$20.00 per head annually to carry a breeding herd in this county. It costs around \$50.00 to produce a two year old steer. Under these costs the livestock committee feel that no one should attempt to raise beef cattle unless they are ideally situated on cheap range or have access to the National Forest, where they have plenty of good grass.

It is considered that the number of beef cattle in the county under present conditions should not be increased.

Owing to the competition coming from the low grade beef furnished from the dairy herds of cattle, we wish to endorse the "Truth in Meats" campaign suggested by O. M. Plummer. This campaign should be entered into by those who would like to obtain quality beef, as well as those who are growing cattle and work toward a regulation stamping of meats according to grade. All consumers should be informed that beef of the best quality comes from beef bred cattle.

#### Sheep.

Douglas County has a sheep population of 30,000 head. The predator animals are a source of loss to sheep owners.

It is the feeling of the livestock group that sheep offer the best means of utilizing the grass of the county providing this pest can be controlled.

It is recommended that in addition to the bounty system now in force in Douglas County, that co-operation be established with the

United States Biological Survey to secure the services of a Government hunter. Owing to the fact that coyotes come to this county from over the mountains it is recommended that poison stations be established in the spring of the year following the snow line back with the hope of destroying these as they come in.

It is recommended that an effort be made to improve the standard of the sheep kept, by keeping good ewe lambs to replenish the flock as well as the use of good rams of mutton breeds.

The committee feels that Umpqua lambs should, by improvement, be made to bring a premium on the market such as is being done by lambs from other sections. It is suggested that as one means of establishing Umpqua lambs in the minds of the traveling public, that the hotels of the county be asked to feature "Umpqua Lamb" on their menu during the lamb season.

#### Goats.

Douglas County carries 33,000 goats which are proving profitable to the owners. The committee recommends that more Angora goats be kept as a means of improving the grazing conditions by keeping down brush. Experience has shown that aside from the crop of mohair that is produced they will improve the pasture for both sheep and cattle. Control of them by fencing is necessary to secure the best results in riding the pastures of brush.

#### Hogs.

Douglas County carries 7,500 hogs at present. Owing to the fact that hogs are not profitable where raised on grain alone it is recommended that only such numbers be kept as will be required to consume the waste produce, such as skim milk, all fruits and grain.

#### Horses.

The committee wishes to call attention to the fact that few draft coats have been raised for some years and that the average age of draft horses on the farm is over 10 years. It is recommended that those who expect to use horses in their farming operations, should raise enough colts to take care of their own needs. It should be remembered that all sections of Oregon are faced with the same problem.

Respectfully submitted,  
B. F. NICHOLS, Chairman.

### CEREAL CROPS ARE NEEDED IN UMPUQUA VALLEY

A greater diversity in farming in Douglas County with more attention paid to the growing of cereal and seed crops, is one of the recommendations growing out of the agricultural economic conference held here last month. Douglas county is shipping in various grains, corn, and feed which might as well be raised at a profit at

home, the report says. The soil and climatic conditions are very favorable for the growing of cereal crops, and such practices would improve the land and be of benefit to the farms of the county. Douglas county is one of the most suited in the northwest to the growing of corn, yet much corn is imported each year for feeding purposes. There is a big opportunity for the growing of several seed crops and there should be a big expansion along that line, the report of the farm crop group relates. The complete report of that committee is as follows:

The cereal acreage of Douglas county has declined to the point that but little of the crop is shipped out and a good deal of the various grains are shipped in. Yields per acre on many of the lands are too small to make the crop profitable. Some of the lands are devoted to cereal production because there has been little else to choose and in order to utilize the land, grain has been grown. Many practices have been followed that lead to lower yields.

The committee recommends the following as means of improving the Douglas county cereal situation.

1. Grow the crop in a rotation including some legume.
2. Make use of better preparation methods to secure better seed beds and greater freedom from weeds.
3. Make fall sowings of all of the cereals, in preference to spring sowings where soil and moisture and weed conditions will permit.
4. Adopt standard varieties of the cereals and eliminate the rest.
5. Use only thoroughly cleaned seed.

The use of rotation will enrich the soil and improve its physical condition so that the numerous workings now necessary in many cases to prepare a seed bed may be reduced. This will tend to increase acre yields and at the same time reduce production costs. Good seed beds may be had more easily.

The treatment of seed grain will reduce the smut losses. All wheat should be treated with the cotton carbonate treatment. Directions for use, making a home made dust treatmer may be had from the county agent. All oats and barley should have the regular formaldehyde treatment.

Statistics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture as well as the experience of the committee members show that fall sown cereals on lands where they come thru the winter in a satisfactory condition, outyield the spring sown crops. Therefore it is desirable on unirrigated soils that can be successfully prepared in the fall to make an extensive fall sowing as possible. Fall sowing after a good cultivated crop is particularly good. The standard varieties recommended are:

#### Fall Varieties

Wheat: White winter for heavy. (Continued on page 64.)

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