



NEWS OF FARM LIFE

GRANGES COUNTY AGENT'S REPORTS CROP NEWS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEWS



DEEP SNOWS MEAN GOOD GRAZING LATER

EUGENE, Ore., April 6.—(AP)—R. A. Elliott, assistant supervisor of the Willamette national forest, said that the heavy winter snows in the Cascades renewed the hope of sheepmen for adequate grazing lands for 32,000 head of Willamette valley sheep this summer.

Range Land Deterioration in Douglas County Pointed Out

ACTION NEEDED TO MAINTAIN GRAZING

Brush Crowding Out Grass, Report States; Burning Is Recommended.

Deterioration of open range, due to the encroachment of brush, is a serious problem connected with the livestock industry in Douglas county, according to the livestock committee's report to the economic conference.

The committee reports, and the state forestry department and national forest service should aid farmers in a program of burning to restore lands for grazing purposes, the committee contends.

Livestock producers are urged to increase pastures for forage to enable the fattening of feeder lambs, and better attention to breeding stock is also urged.

The committee's report shows an increase in the number of cattle in the county, but a decrease in other livestock.

The report is as follows: It is very doubtful whether cattle numbers in the next several years will be kept as small as they were at the beginning of 1935.

In some of the states in the great plains area, numbers at the beginning of 1935 were less than in 1928 and in some areas in the states cattle numbers were reduced to two-thirds.

The drought of 1934 was responsible for some reduction throughout the drought areas. As conditions improve it is quite likely that numbers will be increased again up to the normal supply.

In the south cattle numbers were reduced very little, if any, during 1934. Where numbers now are unusually large there would be little reason to expect any increase under normal conditions but if the acreage of land devoted to cotton and other cash crops is kept at a permanent low level and the land retired from production would go into grass, there would be a possibility of a further increase in cattle numbers in this area.

Likewise, if corn acreage in the eastern corn belt should be maintained below the average of recent years and the acreage of hay and pasture crops are increased proportionately, cattle production may be stimulated.

Figures on Cattle

The number of cattle in Oregon increased from 792,669 in 1930 to 825,000 on January 1, 1935. This is an increase of more than 200,000 head.

The general tendency at this time is towards increased numbers of sheep in the United States, although at the present time there are enough in the nation to take care of the needs.

Sheep in Oregon have decreased during the five year period, 1929-1935 but there still are nearly one-half million more than in 1925.

The present situation regarding hogs is that the production is the smallest that it has been in 50 years, due to the drought and the production control program.

With the removal of the production program and while prices for pork are high, it is logical to expect that there will be a rather rapid increase in numbers. This is especially true in the corn belt.

For the next two or three years, production in the western states likely will not increase as rapidly because of the shortage of breeding stock.

The number of hogs in Oregon decreased nearly 100,000 head during the last few years.

Horses have decreased throughout the country since 1929 from 20,000,000 to 12,000,000 head. This has been responsible in a large measure for the surplus of feed in the United States.

The number of horses in Oregon decreased 110,000 head during the same period.

Livestock Now on Hand

It is believed that possibilities exist for the development of irrigation in Douglas county as a means of enabling an increase in forage production.

It is a sound policy for Douglas county livestock producers to increase pastures and forage so they can fatten feeder lambs instead of shipping them out of the county for finishing, thereby making it possible for the stockmen to realize a greater return from their lambs.

In view of the fact that an improvement of pasture is necessary to the future livestock production in this county, the county agent is urged to establish grass nurseries on representative soil types of the county where a variety of different grasses will be demonstrated to the farmers, showing the best grasses for the various soils and areas of the county.

These nurseries should be established in districts easily reached, thus serving the largest possible number of farmers.

Pure Bred Sires Best
The use of good purebred breeding stock as a means of increasing the profit from livestock in the county is paramount.

Cattle Embargo Threatened
At present a bill is in congress which would remove the embargo on beef from Argentina. Removal of such embargo will handicap the stockmen of this county.

Hog and mouth disease is prevalent in Argentina and the importation of fresh beef will endanger the herds of the United States.

It is recommended that a resolution be sent to all the Oregon delegates in congress protesting the removal of this embargo.

Where suitable feeds are available for fattening cattle, Douglas county farmers are urged to consider the possibility of marketing such feed through steers. Only good quality cattle should be used for this purpose.

Careful buying of cattle being exercised because the success of the venture frequently depends on that point. This enterprise should not be attempted except where conditions are satisfactory. Reports of the results in feeding cattle at the Oregon Agricultural experiment station at Corvallis and the branch livestock experiment station at Union, available through the county agent's office, will be helpful to those contemplating such a program.

Sheep Lead in Douglas
In view of the fact that sheep production is a major livestock enterprise in Douglas county and so far that there is a problem providing grass and other feed to make these lambs ready for market, it is recommended that farmers study the possibilities of supplying supplemental pasture crops that will provide the necessary feed in season to make the lambs ready for market.

Such feeds as clover, alfalfa, and any of the grasses suited to any particular farm are suggested. Growers should consider the planting of sweet corn to be grazed down by lambs as a means of fattening them and putting them in the proper condition for market.

This crop having been tried with success by some Douglas county farmers, there may be other crops that can be used for this purpose so the recommendations of the farm crops committee should be consulted.

Troubles from certain parasitic diseases among sheep in Douglas county should warn growers to pay particular attention to the best methods of their control. A fund of \$10,000 recently was appropriated to be used as a means of control of liver fluke in sheep. Most of this money, according to the plan, has been or will be used for drainage purposes as one means of controlling the snail. The most satisfactory means of controlling the snail is believed to be through the use of blue vitriol.

Dr. Robert H. Jay, Portland, in charge of the project should be interviewed, requesting that he reserve a liberal portion of the \$10,000 for blue stone to be scattered on farms where liver fluke is a problem.

Hogs Should Be Limited
In view of the fact that grain production is limited in this county it is recommended that hogs be utilized farm wastes and by-products on the farm. It is recognized that some farms may have a condition where there may be an exception to this rule but under no condition is it thought advisable to consider the hog-raising industry as a major one.

The possibilities of raising horses under Douglas county conditions has been considered and it is believed that this should not be considered an important industry in the county. In view of the shortage of horses in the United States, it is believed that possibilities exist for the development of irrigation in Douglas county as a means of enabling an increase in forage production.

Conditions Has Been Considered

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Second Annual Conference on Family Living to Be Meeting Topic

The second annual conference on family living will be held in the K. of P. hall in Roseburg on April 15th. This conference is being arranged by J. Roland Parker, county agricultural agent, in cooperation with the county home economics committee.

The continued support of 4-H clubs and Smith-Hughes projects as a means of interesting young people in livestock production, is important.

The Roseburg Lamb show, now a successfully established event in Douglas county, is raised and supported by the county.

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Brush Reducing Pasture

Condition of the range for livestock in Douglas county is deteriorating due to the fact that brush is crowding out the grass. The present state law regarding the burning of brush lands is so strict, making it practically impossible without prohibitive cost, for the land owner to improve his grazing lands through the use of fire. This condition is making it necessary for owners to abandon such lands with the danger that they will be turned back to the county and thereby be taken off the tax rolls.

The state forestry department and the state fire patrol association should be asked to modify the law and furnish the necessary help to the farmer to burn his brush lands. A further request should be that the CCC's be asked to furnish men to assist in this program.

The future success of agriculture in Douglas county depends on improvement and increased production of forage crops and feeds for

TREND IN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS FOR OREGON, THE UNITED STATES, AND DOUGLAS COUNTY

	1929	1935	1930	1935
SHEEP				
Oregon	2,002,378	1,775,093	2,532,000	2,209,838
United States	29,025,909	29,131,909	49,913,900	49,766,000
Douglas county	76,574	98,772	140,392	106,457
HOGS				
Oregon	1929	1925	1930	1935
	266,778	218,967	192,000	183,380
United States	59,241,009	54,234,009	52,609,000	37,007,000
Douglas county	12,215	7,549	5,909	5,331
BEEF CATTLE				
Oregon	1929	1925	1930	1935
	579,697	485,813	412,000	380,000
United States	43,298,000	29,609,000	21,091,000	161,279
Douglas county	11,051	10,215	5,415	5,415
HORSES				
Oregon	1929	1925	1930	1935
	271,559	223,818	179,750	161,279
United States	19,795,000	16,489,000	13,140,000	11,827,000
Douglas county	6,432	5,210	2,961	3,998

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For better results with your present ration, try adding about 2 lbs. of pure NUTCAKE BRAND Coconut Meal per cow per feeding.

If you have surplus oats, barley or wheat, take some of your home grown grains to your feed dealer and trade for Coconut Meal. Have your feed dealer grind and mix as follows: **THREE PARTS YOUR HOME GROWN GRAIN AND ONE PART COCONUT MEAL, PLUS MINERALS.** Watch the cream line when you feed NUTCAKE BRAND Coconut Meal! This mix is good for dairy cows, growing hogs, turkeys and cattle. Hog Farmers, this will save money for you, too.

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(Adv.)

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ROSEBURG FEED CO.

Regularly meeting Tuesday, April 7th, at 8 o'clock at armory. All members urged to attend. Sec.-Adv.

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