



FARM and GARDEN NEWS



More Milk, More Money For Dairy Farmers Seen in Hybrid Corn, Crossbreeding of Stock

By ROBERT E. GEIGER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—(AP)—That mysterious farmers' friend called hybrid vigor is going to put many more dollars into dairy farmers' pockets, just like it is paying corn growers an extra \$750,000,000 a year.

Dairy breeding experts don't like to make a definite estimate, but they do say this:

If new breeding ideas could be applied immediately in all herds they might boost American dairy production 25 per cent—possibly more—with no increase in the number of cows.

This would mean about \$500,000,000 extra each year from America's 25,000,000 cows—about \$20 extra from each cow at present dairy prices.

Corn was the first of the major crops to demonstrate in a wholesale way what hybridiza-

tion means, in dollars to farmers. It was discovered that if families of corn seed are inbred and these families crossed, the seed that is then produced boosts production enormously. This is called hybrid vigor. Scientists don't fully understand what it is.

During four war years, when hybrid seed corn became fully available to farmers, they reaped a \$2,000,000,000 extra profit, it has been estimated. In 1946 for instance, the same amount of land, using hybrid seed, produced 600,000,000 more bushels of corn than it produced with non-hybrid seed before the war.

Government dairy experts were asked whether the early hybrid corn results indicated the crossbreeding of dairy cattle might boost milk and butterfat production.

They already had started out to get the answer in 1939. Holstein, Jersey, Red Dane and Guernsey cattle were available at the Beltsville, Md., governmental experiment farms.

Experiments that have been made aren't exactly similar to the corn experiments. The dairymen cannot say definitely that hybrid vigor explains all the increase in butterfat production that occurred. But the hybrid idea was the sparkplug that touched off the experiments, so it gets the credit.

The dairymen are confident



DONKEY BRINGS HELP—Francis (Dad) Marion, 60, is comforted by nurse Marie Krause after he was operated on for a broken hip in a San Mateo, Calif., hospital. At the right is Marion's faithful donkey which brought help to him after he lay crippled in his mountain cabin five days. With the donkey is Edgar Castleman who discovered Marion's note around the animal's neck asking for help. Castleman brought Marion in his jeep to a waiting ambulance. (AP Wirephoto)

all American dairy cattle will benefit.

Crossbreeding Pays Off

In the Beltsville experiments the butterfat production of cows was increased in one generation an average of 143 pounds a year—about 30 per cent—by crossbreeding. Milk production increased about 2,815 pounds per cow.

This accomplished in one generation almost as much as older methods of breeding—with no crossbreeding—had been able to accomplish in six.

Dr. O. E. Reed, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Dairy Industry, says the commercial dairy farmer can benefit from the research because it means he can breed his cows to bulls of almost any

other breed. The important point is that the bull must have an outstanding record of producing daughters of high milking quality. His breed doesn't matter so much.

This is contrary to the theories of many dairymen who have been trying to improve the production of their herds by increasing the amount of blood within the herd, from one breed or one family. They have been doing this by mating cows to the same bull, or bulls of the same breed. Several Breeds Best

Dr. Reed says the Beltsville experiments indicate they can improve production much faster by using outstanding bulls of several breeds. This simplifies the farmer's breeding program because hundreds of outstanding bulls of many breeds are available through artificial insemination.

Dr. Reed says there are now 963 artificial breeding depots in the country, with 1,745 bulls, mostly in the big dairy centers.

Most of these depots are owned by farmer-cooperatives.

Last year about 2,000,000 cows were bred through these depots. The average size of the herds was only eight cows. Indicating their value to the smaller producer unable to afford his own bull.

Within five years Dr. Reed says as many as 10,000,000 cows may be bred artificially. A program is being worked out to make more depots available through the nation.

Dr. Reed says it is the responsibility of the breeders of purebred registered cattle to develop bulls for these depots from the top milk producing cattle families of the United States.

Smith River Dairy Herd Changes Ownership

Noah Black and his son, Shirley, operators of one of the larger dairy ranches on Smith River, have recently sold the bulk of their herd of grade Jerseys to

Egg-Feed Ratio More Favorable For Poultrymen

The all important egg-feed ratio for commercial poultrymen is more in their favor now than it has been any time since 1945, states Noel Bennion, O. S. C. extension poultry specialist, who foresees excellent prospects for the state's egg producers during the next six months.

The poultry specialist points out that a dozen eggs will buy about 17 pounds of feed today. A year ago, Bennion states, a dozen eggs were worth only about 13 pounds of feed.

Together with that favorable balance, Bennion anticipates higher egg prices for the first six months of 1949 as compared with the same period in 1948. The picture for the last half of 1949, is not so rosy.

Every time there is a favorable egg-feed ratio it brings an increase in the number of chicks hatched. Chicks hatched this spring, Bennion points out, will be the pullets that go into the laying flocks next fall. Consequently, there may be a general slackening off of egg prices during the fall months.

Nationally, the U. S. department of agriculture has requested a 10 percent increase in the number of chickens. The Oregon USDA council, however, has requested a 15 percent increase in this state's chicken numbers. This requested step-up is due mainly to the rapid increase in population that has taken place.

In the past four or five years Oregon has swung from a poultry and egg exporting to an importing state. The long-time prospects for Oregon producers of market eggs and poultry meat is exceptionally good, Bennion believes.

Recent reductions in the price of lumber will encourage more persons to enter the poultry business, Bennion concludes. Poultrymen cannot safely pay more than \$4 or \$5 per bird at present prices in constructing new buildings to house their laying flocks. Remodeling present buildings offers lower cost possibilities.

Dr. Albro of Long Prairie, above

Scottsburg. Sixty-six dairy cows were included in the transfer, which left the Blacks with only a few head of dairy cattle, mostly young stock. Mr. Black is uncertain as to just what he will do with his ranch, having considered stock- ing it with beef cattle.

Marjorie Zeller Receives Award As 4-H Leader

For her record in 4-H Leadership, Marjorie Zeller of Brockway has been awarded one of the two top awards in the state. These prizes, which are 17-jewel watches, arrived last week from Chicago and are part of the awards in the 1948 National 4-H Achievement contests.

In her 4-H club junior leadership, Marjorie Zeller finished her last year as a 4-H member with an enviable record. As a junior leader, she has in the past four years led a total of eight clubs and acted as assistant leader in

two others. One of these, the Brockway Safety Club, in 1947 won statewide recognition as the outstanding safety club in the state. Besides the safety clubs, Marjorie has led canning clubs, cooking clubs and sewing clubs.

Schoenfeld Reappointed To Farm Credit Board

SPOKANE, Jan. 10.—(P)—William A. Schoenfeld, dean of the school of agriculture at Oregon State College, has been reappointed to the 12th district farm credit board.

Schoenfeld's sixth consecutive appointment for a three-year term was made by I. W. Duggan, governor of the Farm Credit Administration.

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the FEED BAG

Vol. XI Published Weekly by the Douglas County Flour Mill, Makers of Jan. 10, No. 2 UMPQUA CHIEF FLOUR and Umpqua Brand Poultry and Dairy Feeds 1949.

Looking Things Over.

The old year is gone; the new one is here. One of the first jobs that presents itself at the beginning of a new year is to size up the situation, and make our plans for the coming year.

As usual at this season, we take our pen in one hand and our crystal ball in the other and pass along some facts and theories for your consideration. We hope these words may help you in deciding on your plans for 1949. We take pride in reminding you that we have given pretty good advice in past years.

Last year at this time, we advised you to raise lots of turkeys, lots of laying hens, increase your dairy herd and produce more pork. These industries have all proved lucrative during 1948. So with that pat on our broad back, here we go.

We have a feeling that prices of eggs, turkeys, fryers and hogs will be slightly lower during 1949 than in 1948. In fact, many of the big shots think prices will be lower all along the line, so that the above price recessions will not be exceptions.

We feel further that feed prices will be lower in 1949 for the production of all these items. So that with lower costs, a fair margin could be made even at lower selling prices.

Just how much lower feed prices will be depends, of course, on the policy followed by those in charge of price support programs. Present prices of feed grains are purely the result of the Federal buying and exporting of the huge surplus produced in 1948. Another big crop is in prospect, and nobody knows if sufficient export business can be worked up and maintained to keep grain prices up in the face of another large crop.

But on the other hand, these same support programs will cover the prices at which eggs, poultry, turkeys and other related products will sell. Prices for these products will be 90% of parity.

Do you know what "parity" is? Neither do we. But we do know that with a guarantee of 90% of parity, you would have to encounter pretty bad luck if you couldn't come out with money in your pocket.

The weather has been too cold lately to do much heavy thinking and crystal gazing, and too cold to write much about it. But with warmer weather coming, we will take up a subject each week, and give you our candid opinion of your chances for success in 1949.

Broken Egg Profits.

Producing hatching eggs is a very simple proposition. But selling them has proved something else again for many years past.

Douglas County has become one of the outstanding producers of good, disease free hatching eggs. Annual shipments amount to several carloads each year.

In spite of this, there are seasons when hatching eggs don't move and many producers have to sell their eggs on the commercial market. Part of this trouble is due to mistakes which we, the individual producers can correct.

We talked last week with the Express Company's claim adjuster. We learned that his company has more claims for broken eggs from this territory than almost any other. They are trying to find out why, and you are just as interested as they are, though for an entirely different reason.

Broken eggs cost the express company money in claims, but they cost you money in lost markets. So it is up to you to do all you possibly can to prevent trouble for the express company. (And yourself.)

Don't try to get away with selling big eggs. Oversize eggs. They don't hatch well, the hatcheries don't like them, and they often cause breakage due to crowding other eggs.

Don't pack undersized eggs. They may not break and cause loss to the express company, but your hatcheryman customer doesn't like them. Small chicks come from small eggs, and nobody wants them. Would you?

Put two mapes flat in the bottom of each case. Put them back to back. They are cheap, and may save you and the express company money. Let's remember, we're not trying to sell our hatching eggs to the express company. The extra flats absorb many heavy shocks, and your eggs will not only remain whole, but will hatch better if not jarred.

Use only good, heavy duty cases. Use liners, for extra protection from heat and cold. Mark cases well.

AND, the express company furnishes big labels saying in BIG RED LETTERS: "Hatching eggs. Handle with EXTREME care." See to it that every case you ship bears one of these labels. Let's everybody cooperate, the producer, the expressman and the hatchery. It will pay all of us in real cash, extra profits, and honest satisfaction.

Besides, the Douglas Flour

On That Bum Feed.

Gene Fisher, that old timer in the turkey business at Kellogg, wound up with 978 turkey toms. They were so good the neighbors took 107 of the best for breeders, and Gene sold the other 871, (all of them, no topping off), and what do you "spect they weighed? An average of 27.44 pounds. And how old? Just 7 months and five days. WHEW!

That's bad enough, but to add insult to injury, the boys at the Oregon Turkey Growers plant say this was "the best carload of turkeys ever killed in this plant." Yep, that's what the man said. He told us that, without solicitation. Good turkey; a good grower, and good Umpqua Feed.

And Ted Ziegler a newcomer in Camas Valley has been getting 70% production from his white leghorn pullets all through this near-zero weather. You say "pretty good?" But what we mean, that's without any artificial lights and no forcing. Just Umpqua Egg Mash and scratch.

Pop: "Johnny, your Mom and I won't be home tonight. Do you want to sleep alone, or with Nurse?"

Johnny, (after considerable deliberation): "Well, what would you do, Daddy?"

Teacher: "Yes, Tommy, what is it?"

Tom: "Well, I don't want to scare you teacher, but Dad says if my grades don't improve, somebody's gonna get a licking."

Nothing but Good Feed.

Aside from scarcities due to war conditions, we have been proud of every bit of feed that came out of the Mill. We are always striving to make our good feed just a little better.

In line with this policy, we are discontinuing the manufacture of Umpqua Egg Mash, and replacing it with the new 1949 UMPQUA MILK EGG MASH. Throughout 1949 all our poultry feeds and turkey starter and grower will contain milk. Good old Bessy-ow! What would we do without her—the "step-mother" of the world!

Socks Socks Socks

Let's have all your empty socks. We have better use for them than your rats and mice. Turn 'em into cash and help everybody.