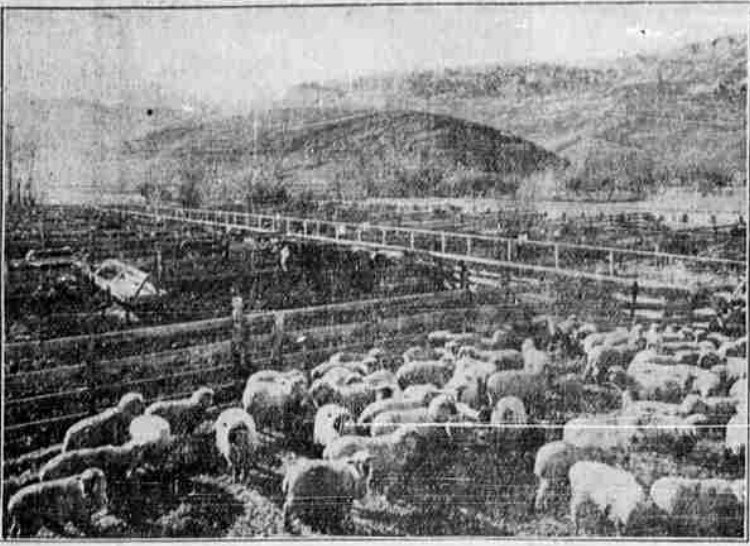


Sheep at Experiment Station



The improving of the various breeds of sheep is one of the tasks allotted the State Experiment Stations. The above is a scene at the Union station, of which Robt. Withycombe is superintendent.

North Powder Section Has Many Varied Resources

GREAT HAY COUNTRY CARRYING EXCELLENT LIVESTOCK, WITH LUMBERING, MINING AND DAIRYING ALL DEVELOPING EACH YEAR.

(By Mrs. Lillie Law.)

North Powder is a bustling little town of eight hundred people which lies on the North Powder river about one-half mile from where it joins with the main Powder. The first business house opened in North Powder was the flouring mill which was built in the early '70s and after several years was bought by Mr. Welch. He increased the railroad to select this place for a town. The railroad came through this town in the year of 1882-84.

One of the first stores in North Powder was run by Gorham & Barrels. John Barrels was the manager of the store and selling goods. He came to call on his cousin, Herman Rothchild, who at that time lived in Pendleton, to come to North Powder to look after his business interests for him while he was away taking medical treatment. Mr. Barrels died in a very short time and Mr. Rothchild bought out the share of the business and is still running the store. Mr. Rothchild came to North Powder 25 years ago and has seen the town all the way through its various stages. Mr. Gorham sold his mercantile interests to Mr. Rothchild but still retained his farming interests. Mr. Gorham at one time ran one of the lumber mills here and brought the fine timber in this section to the notice of the lumbermen at an early date. Mr. Gorham bought a large ranch in and on the Wolf creek section which is now run by his sons and he is an active interest in sale of advanced acre.

First School House Standing.

One of the first school houses is still standing which consisted of two rooms and was at that time thought to be a fine building. It is now used as a private residence. The school is now represented by a building of white pressed brick, two stories in height which houses ten teachers and one hundred and eighty school children. It has modern improvements and is up-to-date in every particular. More teachers will be added to the teaching force in the coming year.

Two hotels were built at an early date. D. W. C. Nelson built the first one on Front street which was used as a hotel until it was destroyed by fire. The town has a modern stone building which was built by L. E. McGee on the corner of Main and Second streets. The downstairs is occupied by various business firms while the upstairs is used as a hotel. It is a modern building and fire-proof. The Old Oregon trail runs through North Powder on Second street. That, with the railroad, gives access in every direction.

Dairy Interests Are Large.

The dairy interests of this section are very large and important. They bring in thousands of dollars to the ranchers each month. There is really no large dairy herd but nearly all the ranchers keep a few good cows and have far more cream than they use at home. This is sold to the local cream stations and during the months of summer the money for cream alone will reach \$3000 every month. The production of cream has more than doubled in the last year. From the amount of cream shipped out from North Powder three times as much as before. Cows in this vicinity not counting those kept for home use. We have the best of the Jersey and Holstein blood in the dairy stock. The grass and pastures of this section are the best in the world for material and to produce here. All stockmen say that the pasture and hay cannot be equalled anywhere. Their cows and beef cattle are turned out to pasture by April 15 and will run until October 1 without any extra feed. North Powder is the home of this beef cattle as well as many other good things. Cattle are turned out on the range and to pasture by April 12 and by the middle of summer are shipped as fat cattle. Hundreds are put into the feed lots in the fall and winter and feed on the alfalfa hay which grows so fine and rank here and hundreds of cars are shipped every year to other markets.

Extensive Sheep Industry.

One of the most prosperous industries in this section at present is the raising of sheep. There are hundreds of head and they are increasing fast in number. The breed of sheep which is liked the best here is the mutton breed as the early lamb

can be shipped and that adds to the financial side of the ledger of the sheepman. With good care and management a band of sheep will increase from eighty to one hundred and twenty-five per cent in one year. Sheep can be pastured from June 1 to October 1 and some years the season is even longer. The grass and hay cannot be equalled for producing wool and mutton. The ordinary sheep will produce from seven to twelve pounds of wool every season and the sale of this at from forty to forty-five cents per pound coupled with the sale of the lambs, makes a nice income for the persons engaged in this business. Some of the sheepmen here are starting to raise pure bred sheep for breeding purposes. It will only be a short time until North Powder will be known as a producer of the finest sheep in the Pacific Northwest. One man had a pure bred lamb which weighed 100 pounds at one hundred days old. These breeders are advertising their stock and are beginning to ship. They do not see any use in shipping in sheep which better stock can be produced at home. This industry is just in its infancy and gives promise of great possibilities for the future.

The lumbering industry in this section is one that employs a large number of persons and is on the increase all the time. There are lumber mills of this section that are busy all the time and there is always a good stock of lumber in the town. Millions of feet of lumber have been shipped from North Powder but there are still millions of feet of standing timber waiting to be sawed and shipped.

Ice Is a Good Product.

North Powder has the distinction of being the one town to reap an ice harvest in the coldest weather of the winter. There are large ice houses built by the P. P. E. at this point and this company has large ice ponds nearby which are filled with water every fall and during the winter this ice is carefully looked after until it attains the desired thickness and is then cut and packed away into the ice houses. The refrigeration cars are used here for all eastern points. Taking care of the ice makes work for men in the dead of winter when there is no work to be had. It also takes a crew of men to look after this work during the rest of the year. There will be other ice houses built as the need for them arises.

The poultry business is one of the industries that has not been fully developed in this section. Many of the farmers keep a flock for home use but not on a commercial scale. There is one of the first of the kind in this section. It is a large white started in a small way a few years ago. He now raises thousands of chickens every year and has a large business in shipping live and dressed poultry. He is a large producer of eggs and ships hundreds of crates of eggs all of which he ships to the city. He has a good market for all he can produce. This shows what can be done in this line. Chickens are free from diseases here which attacks them in other sections. All other stock in this section. The pure air, good water and cool summers do away with diseases that bother the human and animal family so much in other sections.

The amount of timber land in the vicinity of North Powder is 32,000 acres. The number of acres in wheat is 222, hay 7122 acres. The number of cattle on the assessment roll for the year of 1922 is 4000, horses 2500, sheep 2500 and pigs 4000. There is not as much livestock here as there were two years ago owing to the low prices for livestock and the high price of hay. Since the price for hay dropped the farmers are again raising livestock and North Powder is fortunate in the fact once more in this respect.

Hay of all kinds, 2000 tons; wheat 100,000 bushels; feed grain, oats and barley 2000 tons; cattle, hogs and horses 2000 tons. These figures show

DAIRYING IN UNION COUNTY IS BIG ASSET

County Agent Touches Various Phases of Important Subject.

AVERS AVERAGE FARM DISLIKES MILKING COW

Industry Can Be Greatly Benefitted Through Importation and Breeding of Better Dairy Stock.

(By H. G. Avery, County Agriculturalist.)

The dairy industry in Union county may be said to be only in its infancy. The 1922 assessment report for Union county showed 7500 dairy cattle on approximately 110,000 acres of land in Union county. This figure included all ages of dairy cattle, whether in production or not, and probably also includes many cows whose value as dairy animals is doubtful. Adaptation of Union county conditions to the dairy industry, however, is being demonstrated every day by individual farmers who are using proper feeding and breeding methods. While Union county has a somewhat unfavorable winter climate, it is no more so than in some other sections of the United States where dairying is a major farm industry. Under a few good dairymen in the county, a large production of milk is being secured from their dairy herds in pounds of butterfat per cow, per year.

Dairy Records Broken.

Since no cow testing work has been done in this section it is impossible to quote specific instances, except in the case of the purchased Holstein herd, of Mr. H. G. Avery, County Agent. Dr. N. T. Phis, of Hot Lake, has had his herd tested by a tester from the Oregon Agricultural College, or United States Department of Agriculture during each month of the year for the past several years, starting with a herd which he had bought in various parts of the northwest. He has broken several records in butterfat and milk production for the State of Oregon with herds which he has developed in his herd. Comparing weather conditions of the Hot Lake section, it may truthfully be said, that those records made by Phis' dairy cows were made under adverse conditions. The fact that they have made such records, coupled with the fact that the variety and quality of feed secured was not always as good as Dr. Phis wished, makes this stand out as a real achievement, not only in this section, but in the entire state. Dr. Phis' success should convince a prospective dairyman in Union county that the adverse winter climate does not necessarily mean a high dairy production cannot be secured, if proper stabling methods are employed.

Dairy Feeds Plentiful.

As to suitable dairy feeds in the county, very little need be said, except in regard to pasture. Union county produces a large surplus of dairy feeds than is produced in the dairy sections of western Oregon with the exception, perhaps, of good grain. Alfalfa, which is each year becoming a more important crop in the county, and of which there is a large surplus, is a feed of great value. It should be the basis of all feeding systems. This crop can be successfully grown in all, except the dry portions of the county. If dairy varieties are planted, a sulphur fertilizer used, and proper stabling methods resorted to, many herds are producing a very satisfactory milk record on alfalfa alone. The price of alfalfa has ranged from \$5.00 per ton in the fall to \$14.00, or a little higher, in the spring. This is less than many dairymen in western Oregon commonly pay for baled alfalfa of a lower average quality. Many farmers assert that they can produce alfalfa at a cost of \$3.00 per ton. A considerable yield can be secured. Even though we value the hay at from \$10.00 to \$15.00, which is one of the best values of other crops, dairymen in this section have the advantage over those in western Oregon.

Good feeds used in dairy feeding are largely produced here and are usually bought at a lower price than their cost prices. Concentrates, such as linseed meal, cotton seed meal, soybean meal, etc., will cost a little more than their cost prices. Alfalfa has been produced successfully here for several years. Its lower cost during the last few years have made alfalfa a preferred feed in many cases. Where feeds are not so severe a satisfactory crop of corn alfalfa should be produced. In sections where it is too dry for corn dairymen must resort to southwestern or other crops like sorghum, milo or hard barley. Sorghum were planted in large areas several years ago following the successful campaign of a silo salesmen, but did not prove successful, according to the then existing harvesting methods. A number of farmers, however, continued the use of sorghum and are getting good results from them in feeding dairy cattle, as well as beef cattle. It seems likely that many farmers failed in the first instance through putting the sorghum in the silo too green and this condition might happen again in a year where a frost-kill occurs early.

Suitable pastures for dairy cattle are lacking in some sections of the county, the soil and climatic conditions, however, are favorable to the production of good blue grass and white clover pastures. Many such

pastures already exist and many more can be established, where sufficient moisture exists. Irrigated or sub-irrigated lands are best suited to such pastures, and unless moisture is plentiful other grasses should be seeded in their stead.

Summer Pasture a Problem.

The larger portion of the area of the farming district in the county is not supplied with irrigation and with an average rainfall of around nine to ten inches per year, the production of suitable summer pasture is somewhat of a problem. On many ranches, as they now exist, considerable pasture can be derived through pasturing the grain stubble land in the fall and also in the spring before plowing is completed. Some farmers also make it a practice to pasture wheat in the fall after it has not well started. There remains the time, however, between June first and November first when many of the grain farms have no good pasture available. Unless there is some wet-crop pasture, the farm which will produce white clover, blue grass or timothy satisfactorily a short time pasture of sweet clover or grain should be planted. Sweet clover is a biennial and will last only two years; it will, however, produce considerable pasture the first year and a large amount of pasture during the second year. This crop is usually considered not to be dangerous to cattle from bloat but this is not always true and care should be given in pasturing it. If properly handled it makes a very good pasture. Grain pastures such as rye or Purgatory wheat as pasture occurs when the wheat is planted in June, pastured throughout the year and allowed to make grain for the following year. Good crops of wheat are sometimes secured in this way, following a period of approximately six months pasturing. Some men pasture alfalfa successfully for a while. It is not recommended for a pasture except during early spring or late fall and then is sometimes dangerous.

Market Prices.

In the matter of markets for dairy products, there is not much information the writer can give. It may be stated, however, that present prices have maintained better than most dairymen expected following the big fall in farm commodity prices after the war. The present condition of dairy prices is quite satisfactory, as compared with that of other farm products. The situation is best illustrated by a discussion which recently took place among a group of dairymen at Union, Oregon. Many of them were not satisfied with their dairy returns. It was the general opinion of the meeting, however, as stated by one of the most successful dairymen, that there is no other line of farming at the present time which offers a better return than the dairy business, although it demands much hard work. Financial storms are greater than from other lines of farming and the farm is made more valuable by the increase of fertility secured through dairying.

Dairying Not Popular.

Why do not more farmers engage in the dairy business? The first reason is that over fifty per cent of them do not like it. Many men, arriving in the county at the present time, have always produced grain crops and most of them will probably continue to do so as long as they are farming. In matters of actual farming methods the farmer is very conservative and slow to change. With the large amount of free advice which the farmer is offered at the present time, from all sources, whether qualified or not, perhaps his conservatism is a good trait. It omits a fact, however, that the farmer is like the old dog who could not be taught new tricks. Only a small portion of the men arriving at the present time will engage in the dairy business. New dairymen must be recruited from the younger men who are growing up and engaging in farming now.

Better Stock Needed.

The second reason why more farmers do not engage in the dairy business is because they have observed the operations of dairymen in the county and have not seen where they could better themselves. The average dairymen in Union county is making only a small profit, if any. The first cause for this low return is the grade of cows in use at the present time. It is likely that not over one-half of the cows classified as dairy cows in the county are of sufficient merit to enable even the best dairymen to make any considerable profit. If stock of the grade commonly used in some of the better dairy districts in western Oregon could be secured by Union county dairymen, either through several years

of breeding, or through importation of good cattle, dairy profits could be measurably increased. The average dairy cow in the county sells for around \$75, unless in a speculative hands, in which case she usually sells at even a higher price. Seventy-five is more than the average dairy cow in this section is worth, when the amount of her yearly production is considered. It is rumored at the present time that there is a movement on foot, sponsored by the Union County Chamber of Commerce and the banks of the county, to ship in some high grade dairy cattle from western Oregon, and so encourage the dairy business. This is a good movement and the cattle can undoubtedly be secured at a lower price than would ordinarily be thought, according to dairy specialists from the Oregon Agricultural College. The first move in importing better stock, however, should be the securing of a considerable number of pure bred dairy bulls whose immediate dams have themselves produced, at least, five hundred pounds of butterfat in one year. By organizing associations these bulls can transmit their excellence to the cattle of an entire community of farmers and thus improve the common stock, as well as continue the upgrading of the better stock, which might be shipped into the county.

If one-half of the 7500 dairy cows now in use on the farms of the county could be eliminated and the above mentioned good cattle used to replace them, Union county would be on the way to becoming a feed dairy section. The climate as demonstrated by Dr. Phis' record cows

is not too severe. The feed available here, with the exception of the pasture, averages quite a little lower in cost than that available in western Oregon. All types of feed, such as grain, concentrates, high quality alfalfa hay and succulent feeds, including silage or root crops, are successfully produced here. Good pastures can be made available in all irrigated or sub-irrigated sections. In the drier sections a considerable amount of pasture can be secured with as much net return from the land as it produces at the present time in growing a grain crop.

Markets are not satisfactory to the farmer who thinks in terms of his general farming conditions, but are better than those of other types of farming. The dairy industry, at the present time is held back more by poor cows than any other thing. In spite of this a financial survey of Union county farms show that the dairymen is in a better position than any other types of farmers. Let all sections of help in Union county work together to put better cows into the county at the right kind of a price. With them will come better dairy methods and necessarily smaller and more diversified farms and better farming methods. Union county already stands foremost as a general farming section ranking first in the state in purchased livestock production, fourth in wheat production, and high in the production of hay. She should maintain herself in the lead in the production of purchased livestock, but can profitably sacrifice her place in wheat production to the purpose of raising her standing in the production of dairy products.

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I sit me down to write a squall, Choose for my subject "Adam's Rib." And then I find I've pulled a bone. It's a movie's being shown.

My boss says, "Too bad, my lad, I'll have to cut this—it's an ad."

Keep out of rats, as a rat is some thing which, if traveled in too much, becomes a ditch.