



STEER AND CALF—Mark Halsey, 11, and Francis Peterson, 12, show the cow and calf which livestock show goers will see on display at the 4-H livestock exhibit at the EOLS. Both youths are members of the Island City Variety Livestock Club. (Observer Photo)

Union Station Will Gather Ragweed, Wheat Rust Data

Oregon will widen the scope of ragweed surveys this year and in the process will gather new information on the wheat stem rust situation here, reports the state department of agriculture.

Key to the dual duties will be pollen trapping stations which the department is setting up at Union, Sherwood, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Grants Pass, Medford, Roseburg, Corvallis, Baker, Hood River, Umatilla, Ontario, Burns, John Day, Redmond, Pendleton, Bonneville, The Dalles and Lexington. A part-time station will function at Cave Junction.

Most of the stations are now in operation. Information gained from three other stations, main-

BARRIER—Rope stretched across the front end of the box from which the roper's and steer wrestler's horse comes when the barrier flag man drops the flag. According to the arena conditions, the stock is given a predetermined head start, or score, marked by a scuffline. After the stock is far enough out of the chute or has passed the scuffline, the barrier flagman lowers his flag signalling the start of time and simultaneously pulls a rope that releases the barrier.

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Study May Help Prevent Disease

Studies of muscular dystrophy in calves now under way at Oregon State College may contribute to understanding of the disease in man, Dr. Hugo Krueger, professor of animal husbandry, believes.

He said rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, rats, sheep and cattle all can have various forms of muscular dystrophy, some similar to the disease in humans. The more learned about muscular dystrophies of animals, the more possibility of knowing about the disease in man, Krueger explained.

The OSC studies have recently been assisted by a \$2,700 grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America, Inc. The research deals with white muscle, a muscular dystrophy of cattle. The project is to study heart difficulties of calves afflicted with the disease.

Krueger explained that cattle and sheep die suddenly when afflicted with white muscle disease. Visible lesions can be seen in the hearts of some calves. This indicates that muscles are not the only part of the body affected. Circulation, the nervous system and muscles all can be affected in various types of muscular dystrophy.

Description Given Of Cereal Varieties

Best cereal varieties to grow in each of Oregon's eight cropping areas are listed in a new circular published by the Oregon State College agricultural experiment station.

The varieties recommended for each area have been thoroughly tested in each area by the OSC farm crops department and branch experiment stations throughout the state. Wheat, barley, oat, corn, and rye varieties are listed.

Recommendations are made for the Willamette Valley, Southern Oregon, Columbia Basin, Blue Mountain, Klamath Basin, Central Oregon, Lake-Harney, and Snake River Valley areas. Maps indicate how much land each area covers. Copies of the circular, titled "Cereal Variety Recommendations for Oregon," are available, free of charge to Oregon residents. They are available at county extension offices, or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

Farmers Lose Most Sheep To Coyotes

Farmers lost 447 head of livestock, including 400 sheep, to predatory animals in the first quarter of 1959, with coyotes the culprit for over 40 per cent of the sheep destruction. Dogs were responsible for 127 of the sheep killed and bobcats, raccoons, mountain lions and even the eagle had claws in the act.

Other livestock losses to wild marauders included 17 goats, 25 calves, two cows and three pigs, according to the cooperative report of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service and state department of agriculture.

Poultry losses on farms for the quarter totaled 270, including 183 chickens, 31 geese, 2 swan, 13 ducks and 43 guinea hens.

Switching to the monthly report of hunter's catch on predatory animals, 837 animals were taken, with coyotes topping the list at 557 and bobcats a poor second at 196. The fox take totaled 77 and bears, seven. Also, hunters killed 99 porcupines, 49 badgers, 31 skunks, 83 raccoons and one opossum.

"D" RING—An iron or steel ring with one flat side, or it can be perfectly round. Regardless of whether this ring is round or shaped like a capital "D," it is still called a "D" Ring. There are two "D" Rings on every cinch—one on each end.

FIRST USED IN MINING

Early Oregon Farmers Made Little Use Of Irrigation

Much early irrigation in Oregon started as a side line of gold mining and even as late as 1912 farmers in central Oregon questioned both the need and desirability of irrigating.

Today, interest in irrigation has grown until 1,500,000 acres are irrigated in the state. This acreage is expected to nearly double by the year 2000.

But most of the early irrigation development has already been completed, Marvin Shearer, Oregon State College extension irrigation specialist, reports. Future development will require more money, community action, and advance planning, he emphasized.

The first record of irrigation in the Oregon country was by a Methodist mission in The Dalles 20 years before Oregon became a state.

The first known water right in Oregon was established in 1852 by the Wagner-Thornton Ditch in Jackson county which diverted water for the irrigation of 69.4 acres. This ditch was a gold mining by-product. Placer miners washed gold from water brought around the hill in ditches. When the gold was gone the ditches were still there, so they were put to work carrying water to farm lands.

Eastern Oregon's first irrigation development was a result of gold mining, too. In the 1860's the first irrigation in Baker county was from a ditch near Sparta, first built for placer mining.

Oregon's first multi-purpose water development probably was the Burnt River ditch near Malheur City. This ditch was developed for mining, transporting logs and irrigating.

The state's first irrigation well was drilled near Eugene in 1898 by Frank B. Chase. His land continues to be owned and irrigated by the Chase family.

Eastern Oregon has enough water for foreseeable needs, but it must be stored and placed where needed. The ultimate goal in the

Willamette Valley is a system of dams and canals to provide maximum use of winter precipitation for crop production use during the dry summer.

Sprinklers are used on about 10 per cent of the irrigated land in the state. The rest is flooded. However, the sprinkler method is used on 90 per cent of the land irrigated west of the Cascades.

Although irrigation is an ancient farm practice, sprinkler irrigation didn't begin until after 1900, and has been popular only since about 1945. Oregon State College pioneered in portable sprinkler irrigation. Light-weight easily-to-handle aluminum tubing was first adapted for irrigation in the state. Steel used before that was too heavy to be moved about with ease.

Two other factors have helped increase interest in sprinkler irrigation. They are such schemes as wheels and tractors to reduce

labor in moving the pipe and development during the past three or four years of a solid system of pipe that never needs moving. Future irrigation development will be more difficult and expensive because of competition for water and more complicated conveyance systems, Shearer believes. In spite of present surpluses, future irrigation will be more important than ever, he says, to meet the demands of a growing American population.

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