

Changing Profession, New Diseases Provide Challenges For Union County Veterinarians

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 the death of the animal under stress, it is non-communicable and seems to follow introduction of range cattle to local pasture. Three herds of cattle in Union County were affected by the disease in 1950 and one herd was hit this year. It has become a critical problem in Baker and Walla Walla counties and is expected to spread through Union County in the future. Research is now being carried on to develop an antitoxin for the disease. The veterinarians say the disease apparently was unknown a few decades ago and that rapid gains made by beef cattle, due to improvements in breeding and nutrition, seem to have made the animals less resistant to this particular illness.

Tests Are Made
 Selected groups of cattle in Oregon have received the antitoxin inoculation this year and records and observations are being made by Oregon veterinarians on the results of these experiments, they said.

Until more effective remedies can be developed, a gradual re-adjustment of the animal to less feed or less pasture is suggested as one method of reducing cattle susceptibility to pulmonary emphysema, the two veterinarians said.

The other disease is leptospirosis. The disease causes abortions and late pregnancies in cattle and first became a threat to Union County livestock production in 1952. Since then it has spread throughout the valley.

The disease is a critical problem throughout the nation and last year cost livestock producers thirteen million dollars.

A vaccine is available to prevent the disease and is best given in the late fall the pair stated.

Spring Routine
 In the spring the veterinarians are called on to perform many caesarian sections in cows in the county. It is a routine operation, they said, which is also performed on dogs and cats.

Amputation is one of the rarer forms of surgery which the pair occasionally must perform. Amputations are usually made on dogs which have been caught in traps and the bones are too badly broken to successfully "set."

"The animals adjust very rapidly after an amputation and a dog or cat can run just as fast on three legs as it can on four," Dr. Kovach said.

Both doctors pointed out that bones can be set so successfully today that a case of amputation is very rare.

Changing Rapidly
 Veterinary medicine is changing rapidly through basic research in the colleges and universities and the clinical research of

the nation's major pharmaceutical firms, they said.

As new challenges face the veterinarian, they work constantly to keep pace with new developments to meet the challenges. They are aware of the problems which face the livestock producers and they strive to find the answers which will improve livestock production.

They are now doing more pregnancy testing in cattle than ever before. Through examinations in the fall, the vets can tell whether a cow will calve in the spring. This saves the rancher or farmer the expense of wintering a dry cow.

They also are checking bulls for fertility in the spring. Some eight per cent of the bulls in Union County are sterile, they said.

Carries Supplies

The Clinic carries a full line of veterinary supplies and medicine to be sure that all livestock and pet needs can be taken care of promptly. Modern equipment is on hand to assure effective treatment of the animals with an X-Ray machine and surgery facilities.

The Clinic also has pens and runs for dogs and cats which are boarded at the Clinic for area residents who need a place to leave their pets while on vacation.

Keeping in close contact with the local Extension office, the veterinary department of Oregon State College and Washington State University, the pair work to keep abreast of their ever-changing profession.

The work they do with Union County livestock aids in the development of livestock production through better breeding and nutrition and as a result, a sound agricultural economy for the county.



CONFERRING ON A SPECIAL CASE—Dr. Jeff Kovach, left, and Dr. John Ferdinandson, both of La Grande, check reference volume during conference on a special case. (Observer Photos by Bill Bebout)



THE HORSE DIDN'T MIND A BIT

Dr. Kovach is "floating" Tinker's teeth in the above photo. Tinker is owned by Sam Kinzer. Dr. Kovach explains that a horse's teeth grow out to needle sharp points which cut the gums and make it painful or impossible for the animal to eat. The points must be filed off periodically. Holding the horses for the veterinarian is Chuck Gavin, Union County agent.

'Rigging' Hit By Officials At Stock Show

CHICAGO (UPI) — The attempted "rigging" of the International Livestock Exposition here may lead to stiffer measures against cheating at the nation's 11 major cattle shows, exposition officials said today.

Fourteen steers were kicked out of the show Wednesday because someone had injected liquid, air or irritant in their flanks to fill them out and make the animals look better.

The steers were eliminated under a rule banning any trick to change an animal's natural appearance.

Archie Mucks, exposition vice president, said it was the first time such action had been taken in any major livestock show.

But Mucks said all 11 major livestock shows now have agreed to enforce the anti-cheating rules.

Mucks said the names of the exhibitors of the disqualified cattle would not be released because the rigging could have happened before the present owners bought the steers.

However, exposition rules state that exhibitors, herdsmen or managers of altered steers may be banned for life from the show.

The disqualification of the 14 steers cut the field to 353 Junior contest judging opened today and was to end Friday.



MICROSCOPE TELLS STORY

Dr. Kovach examines slides in modern laboratory at the La Grande Animal Clinic. Full lines of veterinary drugs and supplies are handled at the Clinic for Grande Ronde Valley residents.

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Valley Farm-Ranch-Home

Bill Bebout, Editor



X-RAY FOR ANIMALS, TOO

Dr. Ferdinandson presses switches, left, as Dr. Kovach handles X-ray machine during treatment of horse. X-ray machine is part of the modern equipment available to the veterinarians at their La Grande Animal Clinic.

Union County Wheat League Holds Meeting

Public relations counsel, freight rate problems, and a labeling act were topics for discussion at the annual Union County Wheat League meeting held earlier this month.

Carl Helm, Union County wheat grower, led discussion on the need for better public relations between the wheat growers and urban people. Helm indicated that in our own communities, the average citizen does not understand the problems faced by the wheat grower. The group expressed the desire to hire a public relations counsel to better inform the public and passed their recommendation on the Oregon Wheat League for action.

The State Industrial Accident Commission came under discussion during the meeting. Farmers in attendance were concerned over the high rates being charged and were concerned about indicated higher rates. The group also proposed a letter to Gov. Hatfield asking that a farm representative be appointed on the present board that is reviewing the State Industrial Accident Commission's policies. They also asked that the appointed board study agricultural rates now in effect.

Roland Schaad, Rt. 1, La Grande, asked that the group consider a labeling act on all grass seeds. Schaad indicated the seed being sown on Soil Bank lands were from countries outside the U.S. He indicated that grass seed was a natural crop for those with insufficient wheat acreage and indicated that foreign produced seed was taking over our markets. Those assembled agreed and the request will be sent to the state meeting for statewide approval.

Election of officers found Syl van Rasmussen as president; Phil Cuthbert, vice president, and Ted Sidor re-elected secretary.

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TAKING X-RAY OF HORSE'S FOOT—This is a close-up photograph of the horse's foot from the view of the X-ray machine. Film plate is attached to the opposite side of the foot and the machine's eye is pointed at the foot to get the picture.

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Senator Says Farmers Can't Beat The GOP

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. George D. Aiken (R-Vt.) said today the Republicans can't be beat in 1960 on the farm issue alone even though there is no prospect of passing major farm legislation next year.

Aiken, ranking Republican member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said in an interview that any "farm revolt" would not have the severe political impact of a decade ago.

"The number of people engaged in agriculture is not over 10 per cent of the total population," Aiken explained. "And while agriculture is losing people, the rest of the population is growing by leaps and bounds."

"The Republicans can't be beat on that issue alone next year."

NAVY DECORATES DUFEK
 WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Navy Monday decorated Rear Adm. George J. Dufek, who has played a leading role in U. S. antarctic expeditions during the past 20 years.

On behalf of President Eisenhower, Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, chief of naval operations, presented Dufek his second Distinguished Service Medal. Dufek commanded Navy forces in the antarctic during the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year.

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