

ABOUT THE FARM - - -

Notes by the Wayside—

Estacada Area Good For Sheep; Livestock Production Lagging

By Leon Garoian Jr. · Don Coin Walrod, County Extension Agents

For the benefit of his many friends in the county, we're pleased to report John's operation was a success and he is on the road to recovery. John is now resting at home, after about a week in the hospital.

We trust that John was a good patient and made out satisfactorily with the nurses and was not shocked by the liberties they need to take when caring for patients.

Benefits Not Received

Cane berry growers are not



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10 million pounds greater than during the same months of 1950. If this faster movement continues through April, the carry-over at that time will be around one-fourth less than at the end of last April. Something may modify the rate at which strawberries move out of storage during the next few months, but lower prices for the 1951 crop favor faster movement of stocks now on hand.

7% Less Acreage

There is a remote possibility that some factors such as a large crop could upset the situation at harvest time, but the expected reduction in the nation's strawberry acreage is against this. A survey made by the U. S. Crop Rotating Service last October indicated that the nation's commercial strawberry growers intended to harvest 7 per cent less acreage in 1952 than they harvested in 1951. This means that yields would have to average 7 per cent better than last year and 10 per cent better than the 1940-1949 average, if 1952 tonnage equals the total of some 213,000 tons produced in the nation last year. If yields on the intended acreage should turn out as good as those obtained in 1950, the 1951 crop would be equalled. Odds are against this, however, as yields as high as 1950 occurred only once in the previous eight years. In Oregon, much of the state's 18,000 acres planned for harvest in 1952 went into the winter in below average condition due to the long dry fall.

While the Oregon acreage for 1952 is indicated to be the largest ever, the indicated decrease in the national total has greater significance marketwise. National production is more important than local production. Strawberries produced in all other parts of the country, whether marketed fresh or frozen, compete with Oregon strawberries.

Discouraged

The decline in acreage in some other important states, such as Louisiana and Arkansas, may have a significance beyond 1952. It suggests that high costs and declining prices are discouraging growers in that area. This provides Oregon growers an opportunity to supply a larger part of the market if they can continue to make satisfactory returns in competition with Michigan, California, Washington and other high yielding states.

While the situation looks better than a year ago when acreages in most states were increasing, it is not nearly as favorable, of course, as it was eight years ago when strawberry production was at a very low point. At that time, strawberry production amounted to only 1.1 pounds per person in this country. In 1951, production equaled 2.8 pounds per person, compared to previous peaks of 3.4 pounds in 1942 and 3.8 pounds in 1932. National strawberry production in 1932 hit an all time high of 236,000 tons. In 1942, it peaked at 232,000 tons; then dropped to 79,000 tons by 1944, but has risen since to 213,000 tons in 1951.

Reminder

County Extension Agent Clive Cook reminds us that Willamette vetch certification applications should be in the county agents' office by February 16.

More Sheep

"There could be 20 times as many sheep in the Estacada area as there now are," Doug Chambers told members of the Clackamas County Livestock Association at their annual meeting of a week ago. Chambers went on to say that this was true of many other parts of the Willamette valley.

Chambers a representative of a Salem packing company was one of the speakers on the program arranged by the Association for stockmen of the county. In his talk he outlined a program for management of sheep under Willamette valley conditions.

Sheep fit into most farming programs, and on most all size farms said Chambers. However, any 10 ewes eat about the same, but they won't all produce the same. Consequently it definitely pays to keep records and keep the producing ewes.

Purebred Best

Use the best purebred rams you can get advised Chambers—not the best you can afford. He went on to quote authorities indicating that a flock owner should pay three times as much for a buck than the value of his ewes.

It pays to try for twins. They are slightly harder to care for, but this can be done under valley conditions. We keep ewes eight months to raise a lamb in four months, so why not raise two?

Chambers stressed the importance of docking and castrating sheep, saying that while the job might be a little trouble, more trouble would be caused by not doing this minor job. Price of lambs are docked when not castrated or docked. The job can be done easiest when the lambs are a few days old to two weeks.

Ewes should be bred early enough that lambs can be fat-

tened while pastures are good. Irrigation for sheep pastures is not as important as for some other classes of stock. Often good pastures can be rented reasonably.

Lambs

If lambs are not fat by July 4, Chambers advised shearing and farming them. If lambs that have had proper treatment and good feed don't fatten, sell them even if they weigh only 50 pounds, as they will always be tail-enders.

In managing sheep in the feed lot, Chambers advised putting the lambs in the feed lots as late as possible in the fall so that they come out after the Christmas season. The lambs should be started on 1/4-pound grain per head and good hay and should be on full feed in 10 days. Lambs should be sorted, marked, warmed, and sheared. It doesn't pay to feed over 90 days—if lambs aren't fat by then they won't make it.

Prosser Clark Speaks

Prosser Clark of one of the North Portland commission firms was second speaker for the association. Prosser talked about the cattle industry and some of the economics concerning it.

To show what's ahead for coming years, Prosser pointed out that we had a 58 per cent increase in population in the 20 years since 1930 but in that same period we've had a two per cent decrease in livestock on an animal unit basis. In addition our population is increasing at about 15 per cent per decade. Some authorities estimate we will have 180,000,000 people by 1960.

In 1880 we had one sheep per person in the U. S. and one cow per person. Now the U. S. has one sheep for each seven persons and one cow for each 1 1/2 persons. We ate all the meat produced in 1880. On that basis we are falling behind on our livestock production.

Prosser said that he believed in the livestock industry and that it was as safe an investment as any industry. Oregon is in a good position because the demand is here now, we are growing rapidly, and we are sitting on our market.

Feed

Production of the livestock industry is limited to feed supplies. Present systems of pricing on wheat has hurt livestock production and many wheat farmers of Eastern Oregon favor a two price system so that some types of wheat could be fed to stock.

Public relations of the livestock industry have not been good, said Clark, but in many cases the situation is better than some industries with better public relations.

Dog Situation

Committee reports and business details filled the day's program for the stockmen.

Final Rites Said For Mrs. Herman Miller

Mrs. Herman Miller (Ida Emelia) passed away Wednesday, February 20, following a long illness. Funeral services were Saturday, February 23, at Immanuel Lutheran church at Sandy at 2:30 p.m. with Reverend N. E. Dey pastor of the church conducting the rites. Music was furnished by Mrs. Edith Huck and Miss Norma Dubarks.

The pallbearers for vault interment at Sandy cemetery were Richard Suckow, Rudolph Lange, Louie Reich, Walter Hoffmann, Herbert Huck and Henry Schwartz.

Mrs. Miller was born in Germany on February 25, 1869. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. John Flatau. At the age of 14 she came to the United States, living first in Michigan and then in Minnesota. She was united in marriage with Herman Miller at Perham, Minnesota on May 15, 1892. Together with her husband and family she came to Oregon in 1907 and lived in the Sandy Ridge vicinity until six years ago when she and Mr. Miller moved to Portland.

She was one of the charter members of the Immanuel Lutheran Ladies Aid and Sandy Ridge Woman's club. She lacked five days of reaching her 83rd birthday.

Survivors include her husband, Herman Miller; five children: Mrs. Herb Shope (Polly), Mrs. Ottilie Matthes, Mrs. Paul Roberts (Marie), Mrs. Marvin Meyers (Amanda), and Otto C. Miller, all of Portland; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a brother, Julius Flatau of Perham, Minnesota.

We live too much in platoons; we march by sections; we do not live in our individuality enough; we are slaves to fashion in mind and heart, if not to our passions and appetites. Chapin

Individuality is everywhere to be spared and respected as the root of everything good. Richter

gram for the stockmen. Dr. C. H. Seagraves chairman of a dog control committee reported on the dog situation in Clackamas county. The committee suggested that the county ask for bids in operation of feeding, pound and other facilities necessary to a humane system of caring for stray dogs.

Grub Control In Cattle

Incoming President Gordon Dunham, Rosemont, appointed a committee to study the possibility of setting up a block or community plan of grub control in cattle. Appointed to the committee were Larry Schaad, Oregon City; Herman Walch, Molalla; Nat Etzel, Macksburg, and Jim Hamilton, Viola.

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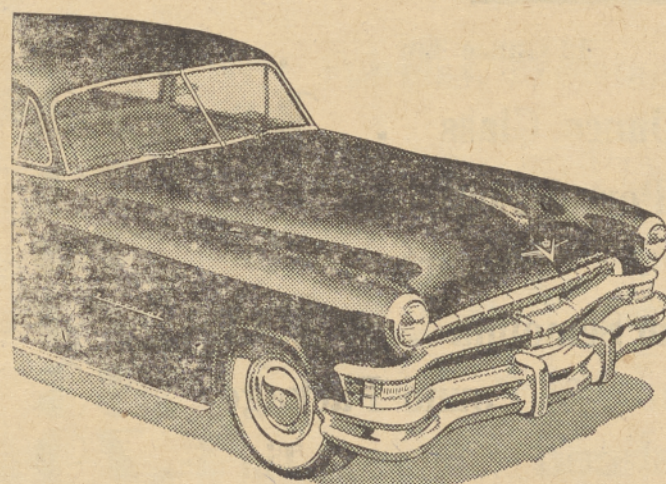
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