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ABOUT THE FARM - - -

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

Stock Grain Feeding on Pasture Seen Good Cattle Fattening Method

Recent experiences of two Clackamas county beef producers indicates feeding of grain on pastures is a very good method of fattening cattle.

The first involves Cecil Snyder, Molalla, who carried over the tail end of ten steers from an original lot of 50 head purchased as weaners in the fall of 1952. Forty of the lot were fattened and sold the summer of 1953, last summer. The remaining ten were wintered last winter as yearlings on pasture, oats and vetch hay and alta fescue hay—no grain. Cecil reports that they wintered in thrifty condition. He put them on alta fescue and New Zealand white clover pasture April 1st. Also, at that time, he started feeding three pounds of barley. This was gradually increased a little as feeding progressed.

These steers made good gains on the pasture and grain. He sold them the last week in May. During the last week he put the cattle in dry lot and fed them on hay and grain only. Buyers believed they would go commercial, but they made low good which was very satisfactory for these, not too good, steers. Total grain fed from April 1st to selling was 300 pounds per head.

Daily Grain Ration

The latter bunch is now on feed on the Christian Arneson place east of Canby. There are ten good and uniform animals in this group. They were purchased as weaners last November. During the winter these steers had some alta fescue pasture, alta fescue hay, and local alfalfa for roughage. The daily grain ration from the start consisted of 2 pounds mixed grain and 1 pound cottonseed meal. The grain was increased to three pounds during January, February and March. Grain feeding has continued during the pasture season up to four pounds a day, but the cottonseed meal intake was decreased to ½ pound on pasture.

Christian expects to market this bunch about August 1st. At present we do not know whether it is better to carry weaners over the first summer and fatten them the second winter or to grain them the first winter and sell them as 16-month-old fat steers. The point of this article is that feeding four or five pounds of grain on pasture does produce excellent gains and is a good fattening practice. No protein supplement, such as cottonseed meal, is necessary with grain on good pasture.

The possibility of improving type and conformation of beef animals by feeding is pretty well known by experienced feeders. During the latter part of the feeding period increased fleshing over the back and loin and filling of the round often occurs. It is also known that animals may be upgraded in the feeding lot. For instance a steer which might grade commercial because of inferior body type at a certain time might grade top good or choice two months later. Changes in body conformation and increased covering takes place rapidly during the finishing period.

Feed Change Type

But how about changing the type of dairy cattle by feeding? We do not want to be caught in the center of a big argument on this subject but it might just happen.

Some time ago we visited the Lienhart Jersey farm near Monitor. The Lienharts, John A. and son John D., maintain a herd of big cows with excellent udders. These cows carry more flesh than many, and are inclined to be a little heavier over the withers than many judged like in the show ring.

"Looks like you prefer the American type cow to the finer Jersey Island type," we remarked to John D.

"Well sir," he replied, "Our experience is that when we purchase the Island type and allow her all the good pasture, grass silage and grain a cow wants, the Island type changes to the American type quick like."

Farm Ponds

Along with the very large and rapidly increasing number of farm ponds appearing on the Clackamas county scene we find increasing interest in stocking these waters with fish. Every pond we have seen so far presents a different stocking and fish management problem. It is a matter that we shall have to give increasing attention.

Shortly after the first of the month we had the able assistance of Andy Landforce, Oregon State College Fish and Wildlife specialist. We visited ponds, and proposed ponds belonging to Willard Deardorf - Liberal, George Wroldstad - Molalla, Day Keeney -

nate as "Cocksfoot" and alfalfa to them is "lucerne".

While visiting on the Albert Emmert place, Molalla, we observed some pretty good Holstein females. "Yes," Albert told us, "they were all produced by artificial insemination. The first were purchased from associatoin members and I now have some artificially inseminated calves born right here on the farm."

Good way to obtain a start, that.

Ever eat beef bacon? No? Neither did we until given a few servings by ex-Oregon City florist, Harold Bernier. Harold and his wife, Blanche, have retired from the florist business. They now have a fine polled Hereford spread on the shores of Beaver-creek four miles south of Oregon City on the Molalla road. And they are real beef product boosters.

Beef bacon is good and we note mention of this breakfast delicacy in the national farm papers. And that reminds us of another delicacy somewhat local in nature. It is fried turkey.

Mrs. Newlywed Should Check Social Security Card for Name Change

Mrs. Newlywed: Have you looked at your social security card recently? Does it show your married name—if your answer is "no", here is a very important reminder from your social security office.

The Social Security Administration can maintain an accurate account of your earnings only if its records agree with the name and social security number which your employer uses in preparing the quarterly reports of your earnings. You don't need a new number—just a new card showing your new name and your old number. To get this new card, visit your nearest social security office and get one without any charge.

When you get that new card—USE IT—SHOW IT TO YOUR EMPLOYER AND BE SURE HE COPIES BOTH NAME AND NUMBER EXACTLY AS THEY APPEAR ON THE CARD!

It would be well too, while you are in the social security office, to learn how social security affects newlyweds. Social security is more than a retirement benefit; it is old-age AND survivors insurance and should be considered along with insurance and savings when you and Mr.

Granger Lotus

A short time ago we found time to visit a very good lotus cornucopia planting on the farm of Albert Emmert, Molalla. It wasn't exactly on Albert's place at that but on the Melva Lowe place adjoining Albert. We sneaked over the back fence and had a look anyhow. This particular stand represents a planting of the Empire variety. It is growing very well under conditions which we think of as not the best for lotus cornucopia.

Empire, we think now, is not our best variety of cornucopia. Granger is the best one, we believe. We have three fine stands of Granger. They are found on the Joe Sollie farm, Canby, and on farms belonging to Dan Yoder and Arthur Shrock just south of the 91 corner south of Barlow.

The Sollie farm is composed of the best Willamette loam, and choice alfalfa location. But Arthur Shrock has his planting on somewhat heavier soil and Dan Yoder's stand in on very heavy Amity approaching Dayton or white land.

Dan's Granger is doing very well indeed but shows a little deficiency of something or other. We suggested trying landplaster since Extension Soil Conservationist, Tom Jackson, has found response to sulphur on lotus in certain Willamette Valley plantings.

Both Dan Yoder and Art Shrock are raising seed so we now have a small seed supply.

Suggestions

Here are a few suggestions for those who contemplate plantings. Granger lotus will evidently grow on soils adapted to alfalfa but we doubt that any other legume can compete in importance with alfalfa on soils adapted to this popular legume. Therefore we suggest Granger plants where good stands of legume hay, ensilage and pasture legumes are desired on heavier soils.

To our way of thinking no legume alone provides forage equal to a legume grass mixture. There are many grasses which will thrive in a mixture with Granger lotus. The catch is to find one with a corresponding late maturity date. For this purpose we suggest Cornell Timothy 1770 of which we have an ample seed supply.

A tame grass offers the additional advantage of preventing invasion of unwanted grasses such as mesquite and dog hair fescue.

All of the lotus families or varieties should be spring planted on a firm seedbed. We shall not go into detail here.

Velvet Grass

And speaking of mesquite or velvet grass, we are reminded of different common names used in the British Isles, for certain of our common grasses and legumes. They call mesquite "Yorkshire fog." Orchard grass they design-

Newlywed make plans for old age or an untimely death.

For people in the local area, the nearest social security office is located on the 1st. floor of the Old Pioneer Post Office in downtown Portland.

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—Lamb.

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