

About The Farm ---

By John J. Inskip, County Agent

If we remember it correctly, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson said in a recent meeting that if all of the nonpaying dairy cows in the United States were culled from the herd, our dairy surplus problem would disappear.

Following this line of thought, Louie H. Gross, county extension agent of Yamhill county, made the following remarks in his news column a short time ago:

"This record keeping again reminds us of the cost of study made by the Oregon State college economics department, in cooperation with the milk marketing program. A friend, one

who is field man for a dairy processing plant, studied over these figures with me recently, and both of us concluded that many of our dairymen are milking cows that just cannot make them any money. We assume these cost study figures must be very nearly correct. In this cost study, it showed that the net cost of producing 100 pounds of 4 per cent milk, on the average farm producing factory milk, was \$2.53 excluding the feed. We put our own figures on feed cost with this, which was \$2.64 per hundred pounds of 4 per cent milk. Adding these two figures, we come up with \$5.17, the net cost of producing 100 pounds of 4 per cent milk. Now, that is the average cost of thirty-one farms producing milk in western Oregon. We do know that many of these farms are producing milk at a cost at which they are making a small profit, but most of the farms are producing milk at a loss, if these figures are at all correct, and we assume they are.

"In our comparing the costs of production between the Grade A producers and the factory milk producers, it would appear to us that the greatest difference was in the production per cow. We noted that in the factory-producing farms, the production per cow was 6,720 pounds and 305 pounds of milk fat. In the Grade A milk farms, the production per cow was 8,000 pounds of milk and 377 pounds of fat. This great difference in production per cow is probably the greatest factor in the cost of production. Now, many of you may not have a record on your individual cows, but no doubt you have a record of the amount of milk and fat sold on the entire herd. This figure can be divided by the number of cows and you will get your average production per cow, and we think if your production is lower than that quoted above, for Grade A producing farms, that you had better do some culling if you do not want to take another great loss this coming year from those 'border-line' cows that are stealing from you now."

Prospects for satisfactory chewings fescue seed prices do not look much brighter as the new harvest season approaches. According to seed and grain marketing specialist, Ray H. Teal, "Final production of creeping red fescue seed in Canada is 50 per cent above preharvest estimates." Canadian creeping red is a direct competitor with Oregon grown chewings fescue.

On the brighter side of the picture, certain of the local seedsmen believe that lower prices will stimulate demand for the red fescues, chewings and creeping red. In a recent meeting one of them said, "Seed packagers have been using 7 million pounds of red fescue seeds a year. I look for 14 million pounds to be used this coming year." This source of information cannot be quoted, but he is an old timer in the seed business and reliable.

"I believe it still worth while to maintain good vigorous plantings of chewings fescue," he continued, "the price is down now to where the red fescues are in commanding position. One might think that demands for certain turf grass species would remain rather constant. Such is not the case. Seed packagers are inclined to use cheaper species regardless."

A few years back, when U. S. growers overproduced the tall fescues, southern growers pushed a U. S. government price support program. Oregon growers as a body didn't want any, thank you, but after the program was put into effect, many Oregon growers took advantage of support prices of 25 cents about double the going price. Consequently, the U. S. Commodity Credit corporation now has a quantity of this older seed on hand.

What is happening in the trade? Just what Oregon growers predicted in the first place. Support prices kept many so-called marginal growers in the picture too long. Now, at long last, all surplus stock is pretty well cleaned up except that held by Commodity Credit. The payoff is that dealers report they are afraid to stock farm seed because they don't know when Commodity Credit will let go, and at what price. The net result is a loss in sales. The fellow who wants to plant an alta fescue pasture cannot do so if he can't purchase seed, can he?

Which is the better soil builder, alta fescue or chewing fescue? Members of a panel which met with the farm crops section of the Clackamas County Farm Bureau at Canby recently believe this depends on the fertilizer program than on the kind of grass.

"But I have noted this," the seed dealer member of the panel

Local 4-H Club Members in Group Attending Summer School Session

SANDY — Fifteen 4-H club members from the Sandy, Mountain, Colton and Estacada areas were named among the one-hundred 4-H club boys and girls who left Oregon City on Tuesday,

June 14, for a 10-day stay at 111 summer school at Corvallis. During their stay at Corvallis the club members will live in sorority and fraternity houses and dormitories on the Oregon State college campus.

While at Corvallis the clubbers will attend special classes, take part in an athletic program and attend special assembly programs and parties as well as participate in living group activities. A total of eighteen hundred boys and girls from every county in the state will attend the summer school, which is considered the top 4-H event of the year.

The Clackamas county group will be chaperoned by Mrs. James Garvison, Oregon City; Mrs. Walter Wallace, Meadowbrook, Mary Ellen Wieck and Harold Black, county extension agents.

Club members who have received scholarships and in the group representing Clackamas county from the local areas are Elisabeth Dey, Lee Ann Ellis and Robert Henselman of Sandy, Coleen Dolp from the mountain area and Eugene Vauthier of Bull Run. Other members are

There are now four or five hundred pounds available to local dealers. It is our recommendation that a few rounds of Dupuits be planted in the same field at the same time and under exactly the same conditions that Talent or Grimm is planted. The object, of course, is to obtain practical comparisons.

Dupuits alfalfa has been outstanding in many portions of the United States. The same is true of Vernal alfalfa. In case these field plantings show up well on Clackamas county farms, it is believed that Dupuits seed will be in plentiful supply during the next few years. The U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with state experiment stations, now has the machinery set up to increase seed supplies of approved varieties rapidly. Incidentally, this step in production program has been greatly improved because of development of new insecticides which control growing alfalfa-seed-destroying insects.

It is still our recommendation to plant four or five pounds of orchard grass or alta fescue with alfalfa. Alfalfa and grass mixtures provide a better balanced roughage. Mixtures cure better and these approved grasses repel invasions of weedy grasses such as rattail fescue, ryegrass and bluegrass.

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Summer Band Is Holding Sessions

ESTACADA — The Summer Band under the direction of Duane Olanie, high school instructor, has started again for the summer months.

The band will practice every Monday evening at 7:30 PM at the high school.

All incoming freshmen are urged to attend these sessions as they will be of great help to them when they enter high school next fall. All other musicians of the town or high school graduates are welcome.

ESTACADA — Twelve youngsters became members of the Methodist church during services held Sunday, June 5th. Rev. Violet Bolliger also baptized those who had not been previously baptized.

New members are Lilitia Kirk, William Ray, Eugene Ray, Sue Westerberg, Elizabeth Ebert, Gerald Broadhurst Jr., George Dodd, Ella Mae Griggs, Dean Keller, Maryethel Harbert, Richard Hasselbrook and George Fourier.

Mrs. Robert Cody instructed the youngsters during a series of classes and presented each with a record book after the service.

A potluck dinner was held in honor of the group in the church basement at noon Sunday.

Stanley Dmytryk To Direct Choir

ESTACADA — Stanley Dmytryk, Pacific University music major who will direct the First Congregational church choir at Forest Grove next year, will direct the Methodist church summer choir here while he is home on vacation.

The first practice will be held Wednesday evening, June 29, at 7:30 PM in the church basement.

Bible School Has Large Attendance

ESTACADA — Vacation Bible school is being held at the Methodist church including this week. The theme of the entire program is Sailing With Christ. Rev. Violet Bolliger is directing the school and teaching are Mrs. Cecil Harbert, Mrs. Robert Cody, Mrs. George Fourier, Mrs. Donald Dodd, Ann Harbert, Judy Watson and LaDonna Anderson.

A large attendance was reported last week with the hope for even more this week. All children are invited to attend. Classes start at 9 AM and are dismissed at 11:45 AM.

Children Baptized At Sunday Service

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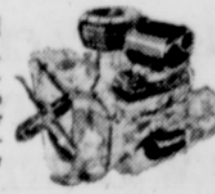
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