

Ancestors Are Also Important To Animals

By Little L. Madson
Farm Editor, The Statesman
CORVALLIS, March 7 — There is a lack of appreciation of what irrigated pastures can do for beef cattle, Dr. Fred F. McKenzie told me as we sat in his office talking about the new livestock program being set up at Oregon State college.

A grant of \$4,073 has been received by the animal husbandry department at the college to be used in a new project for research in improving beef cattle through breeding and proper feeding.

The grant is from the bureau of animal industries of the United States department of agriculture, and is from funds appropriated under the agricultural research and marketing act of 1948, Dr. McKenzie explained.

The work at the State college is part of a regional project extending throughout the 11 western states. Co-leaders in the state will be Dr. Ralph Bogart and Joe B. Johnson, who kindly added their time to that of Dr. McKenzie's in telling of the college's work in this line.

Top Geneticist Here
Dr. Bogart is one of the top animal geneticists in the country and he took over the mating program in animal industry at the college last December. In the program, started early this year, Johnson is the livestock production specialist; O. M. Nelson, widely known as a sheep specialist at the college, will devote his time to the study of improved wool production, and A. W. Oliver, also with the college for a number of years, will study the meat production. H. G. Avery is superintendent of eastern Oregon branch livestock experiment station, and W. A. Sawyer, superintendent of the Squaw Butte-Harney branch station, Dr. McKenzie told me.

Dr. McKenzie himself will devote his special research time to improving reproduction in the livestock division.

But Dr. McKenzie returned to talk of beef cattle, reiterating that beef cattle will be more important here in the valley than many farmers now realize. Lack of range was one of the features which

kept the pastures in the planned pastures, he said.
Black Cattle Gaining
He told of the Aberdeen Angus, scarcely known in the valley until recent years and how they are now increasing in number. He explained that one of the complaints had been that the black Angus are vicious, or at least, more so than the Herefords. But this, Dr. McKenzie said, depends upon the strain. One breeding strain is exceptionally gentle and docile while another was somewhat more nervous. Much of the nervousness of even the most nervous strain can be overcome by proper early handling and eventually weeded out entirely by correct breeding, he said.

"There are places in the Willamette valley," Dr. McKenzie added, "where the Aberdeen Angus and the Shorthorns fit in very well. But each farmer or rancher must thoroughly study the conditions of his place."

When asked if much study in crossing of breeds is going to be done, Dr. McKenzie said that progeny testing is coming first: "We want to find out what we have and how much this can be improved before we start on something else. Genetic programs aren't something settled in a day or two."

Urged Good Feeding
Dr. McKenzie urged feeding young stock well from the first. If it isn't fed properly in the first year of its life, an animal is not going to reproduce very well, he said.

"Don't short-change your small animals. As sure as you do, they'll be short-changing you in their maturity," was his way of putting it.

He believes that Willamette valley hay is as a whole poorly cured, and he advocates grass silage or chopped hay in its stead.

The old battle of environment and inheritance is just as pertinent in the human race, Dr. McKenzie said. Animal environment, which means sanitation and a proper feeding program, can do much not only for the present but the future generation, but inheritance counts strongly and it may take some generations to overcome past poor environments.

Thirty-seven years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, a white man named Antonio Espejo found silver ore in what is now Arizona, marking the first mineral discovery in the territory.

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden—ST. LAURENCE L. MADSON



White skunks, connoisseurs in the small animal kingdom report, are one of the rarest of native little animals in the Willamette valley. A great search is on for the parents of the one pictured here as this is the third white one found in the past two years in a five-mile radius. Holding the skunk are Emmanuel Kellerahl (left) and Arnold Kuenzl who caught the little pet a few weeks ago near their Waldo Hills ranches. The two men, who are brothers-in-law, report that the little cat, which was quite wild and frightened at first, is taming down considerably but that it is still best "to handle her with gloves."

Farm Calendar

April 8-10 — 20th annual Oregon FFA convention, Oregon vocational school, Klamath Falls.

April 10 — Mt. Angel Farmers union warehouse meeting 8 p. m.

April 13 — Aumsville Farmers union.

April 18 — Marion County Jersey Cattle club, Dairy Co-op building.

April 18-19 — Pacific Coast Aberdeen Angus association first show and sale, Klamath Falls.

April 21-22 — Annual Clark county (Wash.) Holstein club show and sale, fairgrounds, Battle-ground, Wash.

May 1 — Meredale Foundation Jersey dispersal sale (Meredale, Delaware county Meredale, N. Y.) Pacific International building, Portland.

May 14 — Polk county grass silage field day, near McCoy.

May 17-19 — Annual meeting of cattle and horse raisers association Baker.

May 18 — American Guernsey Cattle club educational program and marketing panel, Multnomah hotel, Portland.

May 18 — Linn county grass silage field day, John Pugh farm, Shedd.

May 19 — American Guernsey cattle club business meeting, Portland.

May 19 — Clackamas county grass silage field day, Canby.

May 20 — Western Guernsey sale, Pacific International building, Portland.

May 29 — Annual Lamb and Wool Show Linn county, Seio.

June 5 — Annual Marion County Lamb show and state dog trials.

June 7-11 — State Grange convention, Astoria.

June 15-25 — Annual 4-H summer school.

Seed Sales Short Spring Reports Show

National sales of "important field seeds by growers have been smaller than a year ago, and also smaller than in other recent years, crop reviews prepared by the U. S. department of agriculture show. A nation-wide survey made in March indicated that the total quantity of 1947-crop alfalfa, red clover, alsike clover, sweet clover, timothy and lespedeza seed sold by growers to dealers and farmers by mid-February was approximately 25 per cent less than the 1946-crop sales and 6 per cent less than the average for the three previous years. The decrease in sales was chiefly due to the smaller production of these seeds in 1947. Growers plan to retain for their own use 28 per cent less of these seeds than they did a year earlier and 17 per cent less than the average.

Onion Farmers Reminded of Control Law

Onion growers and homemakers living within the limits of the onion yellow dwarf control area in the Lake Labish district are reminded by D. L. Rasmussen, assistant county agent, of the provisions of control area order no. 9 which has been in effect for several years. This order was established at the request of farmers who were anxious to avoid great losses to their onion crops from onion yellow dwarf, a serious virus disease affecting all kinds of onions.

This disease is carried within the plant juices. It cannot be controlled by spraying and it overwinters in onion bulbs but is not seed borne. Onion plants being grown from seeds will come up entirely free from the disease. However, onion plants being grown from bulbs may develop a large percentage of the diseases. Insects, especially aphids, carry it from plant to plant.

Lake Labish onion growers and their neighbors protect themselves from yellow dwarf by complying with the provisions of the control order which includes the following provisions.

No onion may be grown within the posted boundaries of the yellow dwarf control area except by the planting of seed. The production of onions by the use of green plants, onion sets, or bulbs is prohibited.

All onion culls and waste onions shall be destroyed by a method that will completely prevent growth prior to March 1, or immediately after sorting in the case of any onions sorted after that date.

All onions in common storage in which aphids are formed shall be removed from the control area prior to April 1, and such infested storage houses and adjoining premises shall be completely cleaned of all onion bulbs following such removal. All onions in such storage in which aphids are not found prior to April 1 shall be subject to reinspection. If aphids are found present, the onions shall be immediately removed from the district and the houses and premises shall be thoroughly cleaned as outlined above.

Africa's population, estimated at 160,000,000, includes only about 4,000,000 Europeans.

Glen Thurston Wins High DHI Honors

Highest ranking dairy herd in the Linn-Benton Dairy Herd Improvement association for the 1947 testing year is owned by Glenn Thurston, Seio, the annual report, just published by the association, shows. Thurston's herd of 13 registered Jerseys produced an average of 7874 pounds of milk and 473 pounds of butterfat per cow during the year.

Other dairymen with high ranking herds in the association are F. M. Lamb, Albany, seven Jerseys, averaging 8470 pounds of milk and 472 pounds of butterfat; Frank Richardson and Sons, Albany, 20 head Jerseys averaging 9065 pounds of milk and 453 butterfat; F. L. Allison, Corvallis, 11 Jerseys, averaging 7924 milk and 453 butterfat; Grimes Bros., Harrisburg, whose nine Holsteins averaged 12,832 pounds of milk and 434 pounds of butterfat per cow.

Hay Shortage Warning Being Issued Again

The outlook for an adequate hay supply in Marion county this year is not very promising, reports Ben A. Newell, assistant county agent. Vetch hay, which normally produces as much tonnage as all other hays in the county, will be very short. Alfalfa and clover acreages have dropped to make room for high priced grains. Another fact which should be of concern is that the California drought has caused a heavy drain on carry-over hays and shipments of southern cattle into Oregon will consume much of the meadow grasses usually cut for hay.

A good question for farmers to ask, says Newell, is how can we increase our feed supply. One good way is to apply nitrogen fertilizer to grasses and grains and phosphate and landplaster to all legumes. Save legume straws and cannerly wastes for stock feed.

Crops that may still be seeded for hay are peas and oats, about 70 pounds of each per acre. Spring grains, kicked by nitrogen fertilizer, are not bad. Common rye

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