

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

News and Views of Farm and Garden --By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Pasture Feeds Running Low Reports Show

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Oregon ranges, showing the effects of a dry year, were in third lowest condition on record July 1, the U. S. department of agriculture stated in its weekly report released Wednesday.

Many of the hillside and lower elevations in eastern Oregon have been burnt beyond help and summer ranges had matured much earlier than usual. The prospects for fall grazing at present are not very favorable, with rains needed immediately to improve the outlook.

As a result receipts of cattle in June at the North Portland yards were lowest for the month in several years. June receipts generally have had very poor finish with most of the steers slaughtered grading out at the lower end of the medium grade. Further heavy marketings of half fat cattle is apt to result from the drying up of pastures, field reports are indicating.

Hay Demand Shows have held mostly unchanged in the north-west during the past week, demand is reported very slow. The first crop cutting of alfalfa is well along at Klamath Falls. Harvesting the second crop of alfalfa is expected to get under way at Millam. Free water for alfalfa hay grading U. S. 2 or better was quoted Wednesday at \$29.50 to \$31 a ton in loads.

In the Willamette valley the hay crop is reported at about normal. Much buying of alfalfa hay has already been done with the dairy and cattle men here paying \$35 a ton this week for alfalfa hay laid down at their barns.

Winter Decreased Crop Much grain and some clover plantings intended for hay froze out last winter. Some fields reported are giving very light productions. Hay harvest is being completed here and grain and clover hay in the Willamette valley are quoted at \$17 to \$21 a ton in the stack at the farm.

Pastures in the Willamette valley are drying rapidly with sheep and cattle being unloaded from those where irrigation is not available. With grain and grass now being harvested, some feed, Marion county farmers said Wednesday would be available for turning the livestock in on these. However, irrigation has been increased quite considerably in the valley in recent years.

Charles Nanneman, who has farmed his 72 acres between Salem and Astoria for 27 years, says the hay crop is very poor this year — barely 30 per cent of normal. He has already bought considerable alfalfa hay from eastern Washington for his next season's feeding.

Polk 4-H Clubbers Planning Tours Instruction in judging fitting and showing of livestock will be given to Polk county 4-H club members on two tours to be held on various farms in Polk county this week.

The first tour for the northern part of the county is to be held Thursday, July 14, starting at the Leslie Stewart farm located two miles north of McCoy Junction on highway 99W. Work at the Stewart farm will start at 9 a. m. with instruction in dairy animals. On this tour club members will also receive help in swine, sheep and beef animals.

The scheduled tour for clubs in the southern half of Polk county to be held Friday, July 15, beginning at 9 a. m. at the Joe Bagnis farm located three miles north one mile east of Monmouth. Club members will receive help in swine and dairy animals at the Rogers farm. During the day they will also have assistance with beef and sheep animals.



Charles Nanneman (pictured at lower left) says that he likes to haul his hay with horses, and he is harvesting 12 acres this year for his 20-cow dairy herd. Assisting him are (on the load) a neighbor, Charles Germond; his son, Frances Nanneman, and his grandson, Dennis Foster. At his side is another son, Carl. (Statesman Farm Photo).

Fattening Aids For Thin Lambs Are Suggested

Feeder lambs that did not get fat while with their mothers may require an extra grain ration to make market weight, especially if they are now on poor pasture, Harry Lindgren, OSC animal husbandry specialist, states.

Lambs that fall into this category are now weaned, weigh 75 pounds or less and are too thin to market. The question is, how to get those extra pounds of gain being the lamb up to 90 pounds or so?

Lindgren says lambs will fatten naturally on good pasture, but much forage during July does not qualify as "good." In such cases, he recommends a supplemental whole grain ration such as barley. Whole barley is selling at about \$50 per ton. Any other gains which can be bought at comparable prices, the specialist adds, will also prove satisfactory.

Lambs need to gain from one-third to one-half a pound a day to reach market weight efficiently. Sudan grass is a good source of pasture for fattening lambs, Lindgren states, provided it has not headed out.

Freedom from parasites is also

important. For control of worms, Lindgren suggests that one part of phenothiazine be mixed with 10 parts salt.

Plant Legumes Is Urged by Miller

More protein and less starch is the food production pattern shaping up in the U. S. department of agriculture crop adjustment program for 1950, according to E. Harvey Miller, chairman of the Oregon production and marketing committee.

He points out that with huge crops of wheat and corn in prospect for 1949 and with the warehouses filled with cotton, there is a need to shift some 30 million acres from the production of these and similar crops. If this acreage is used for the production of barley, oats or grain sorghums or commercial vegetables, it will only add to the surpluses in these crops. To avoid trouble, about the only use for most of this land is to put it into grass and legumes.

This will mean putting some of the land that was plowed out of grass back into grass. Sod was broken to meet demands of war and post-war famine conditions in Europe but now there is a need to get some of this land back into sod. More grass and legumes are needed in corn and cotton rotations.

Western Livestock Men Announce 1950 Meeting

The Linn and Benton county livestock associations will serve as co-hosts for the annual meeting of the Western Oregon Livestock association in Corvallis January 30, 31 and February 1, 1950. It has been announced jointly by association president Charles Evans, Independence, and Harry Lindgren, secretary-treasurer, and OSC animal husbandry specialist.

Lindgren says the forthcoming session will be the first time the group has scheduled a three-day annual meeting. Previously, all have been two-day affairs. The added day, the specialist points out, was scheduled to broaden the association's speaker program.

Representatives of the Linn and Benton county livestock associations met recently to make plans for the annual affair. They have announced tentative arrangements for a night horse show as well as demonstration work at OSC.

Fourteen western Oregon county associations including approximately 700 members now make up the Western Oregon Livestock association.

Good Results Had From Farm Treating

Save your most smut-free wheat for seed, clean it, then treat it no matter what its variety is the suggestion to wheat ranchers from two Oregon State college extension specialists, Rex Warren and A. P. Steenland.

In outlining a smut control program, Warren, a farm crop specialist, declares that New Improved Ceresan, Ceresan M, copper carbonate or basic copper are effective seed treatments. The problem with the latter two—copper carbonate and basic copper—is usually one of mechanical failure in not being thoroughly mixed with seed wheat. Both agents rely solely on contact to kill smut spores.

Ceresan Products Good Ceresan products, meanwhile, are doubly effective. They have a fumigation action through the formation of a gas as well as being deadly to smut by direct contact.

Steenland says extra seed treated with Ceresan last fall and not planted will still germinate and produce a crop. Left-over Ceresan treated seed is best planted at a rate about 20 percent heavier than fresh treated wheat to make up for a germination drop, the plant pathology specialist adds.

Wheat treated with either New Improved Ceresan or by the wet slurry method using Ceresan M will not show any appreciable germination decline if sown within six weeks after treatment.

Treat All Varieties "Cleaning is recommended for all wheat to be seeded as added insurance that smut balls and foreign matter will be removed, the specialists point out. Treating is recommended for all wheat varieties to be seeded including the smut resistant varieties similar to Rex.

A common error in using Ceresan is not allowing 24 hours to elapse between seed treatment and drilling. This time allowance is required to get full benefit from the Ceresan gas, Steenland explains.

Special Meeting Set for Friday Marion County Dairy Breeders association will hold a special meeting Friday, July 15. The meeting is for the purpose of considering an amendment to the constitution to change the location of the office from Mt. Angel to Silverton. The move would provide more adequate space for office and laboratory and facilitate the association's plan for future expansion.

Added discussion will be headed by Ben Simonson, manager of the Oregon Dairy Breeders of Corvallis, and Rodger Morse, extension dairyman from Oregon State college. Elton Watts is the Marion county association president.

The Statesman's Farmer-of-the-Week

While Louis Hennies, The Statesman Farmer of the Week, was born in Iowa, noted for its hogs and corn, he doesn't raise either hogs or corn but concentrates on sheep.

But Louis was only eight years old when he was brought west by his parents and during the years he has lived in the west he has heard much more about sheep than hogs, he says.

Of course, he married an Oregon girl, Gertrude Anderson of Shedd, and the two have now lived on their 360 acre ranch near Turner, where they have 100 breeding ewes, for 10 years.

While the sheep have been raised mostly just for "wool and lamb chops," Louis and Gertrude are now going in a bit for show stuff. They have 20 head of registered Columbias which they like very much. They expect to increase this division of their project, they say.

Fitting right in with the sheep project is the grass seed. It is this, says Louis which makes farming interesting these days. He has 25 acres of rye grass from which he expects to take seed this year.

While Louis says baseball games — by radio or the bleachers — is his hobby, those who know him rather well wonder. After all, Louis has done quite a bit with dogs — and it isn't in the raccoons either. The Hennies dogs and their ability to work have long been the envy of many sheep men. He has three Border



Louis Hennies

Collies on his ranch at the present time. These are trained to work with the sheep and are, as Gertrude puts it, "almost a part of the family."

Watch Mint Fields For Flea Beetles

Mint growers are being advised by County Extension Agent O. E. Mikesell to watch their fields for the presence of mint flea beetles, as heavy infestations do serious injury.

Recommended control measures are a 90 per cent cryolite dust or a 5 per cent DDT dust applied at the rate of 25 to 30 pounds per acre. Best results, says Mikesell, are obtained if the dusts are applied soon after the first beetles appear and when there is no wind.

The striped skunk helps farmers by destroying mice and digging out beetles and their larvae.

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