

# Heppner



# Gazette.

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## STOCK FARMING FOR MORROW COUNTY

Writer Urges Raising of More Sheep, Cattle and Hogs on the Farm, and Marketing of Grain Crops Through the Stock.

By J. Garfield Crawford, Ft. Worth, Texas

In the early history of Morrow county, its inhabitants devoted all their time and attention to the production of cattle, horses, and sheep. Today the story is different. The waste lands, so called, lands that are too rocky and steep for agriculture, are the only lands given over to the stock industry.

Immense packing concerns are building in Portland and are endeavoring to supply the unceasing cry of the hungry mouths of the world for meat. The body can easily be sighted in clothing, but it must be fed, and the American people are a meat eating class.

There is not a packing house in the United States that is running to its full capacity, and there is not a packer but who has a greater demand for his products than he can supply. The laboring man, the merchant, the capitalist, and every soul living within the corporate limits of a city must depend upon the farm for his supply of food and for more than twenty years past the demand has been increasing at a far more rapid stride than the production.

But back to Morrow county.

The early settlers were cattle and sheep raisers; then came the farmer. The farmer broke up all the available land and proceeded at once to crop his entire farm with wheat. He may have had a few milk cows, and, of course, from six to twenty head of bronco work horses, but the thought never occurred to him that he could carry as many head of good stock on that land as had been carried before the soil was turned under by the plow.

I have traveled all over the state of Texas, parts of Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma, and have been making a study of conditions along this line that exist here in the Southwest. I have found that there are enough food stuffs go to waste on the average farm to care for and fatten more than enough hogs, sheep and cattle to supply the farmer and his family with meat for the entire year. This same condition exists in Morrow county, or did exist there two years ago, and I presume that the farmers have not completely changed their mode of farming. The solution is this:

Raise more stock, such as sheep, hogs and cattle.

Raise more feed stuffs and market your crops through the livestock.

This is being done in Iowa, Illinois, and nearly every state in the Union. It is being done in Oregon. The farmers of the Willamette valley are marketing their crops through the dairy cow. It is now up to the farmer of Eastern Oregon to market his crops through the beef steer, the packing house hog and the mutton sheep.

Pasture is the secret of stock production and the climate and growing season of Morrow county will permit pasturing nine months out of the year. The native bunchgrass is not sufficient, but along the creek bottoms alfalfa grows abundantly and there never was a better hog ration discovered. The hill farmer sows winter barley, which will furnish pasture and the grazing of his money crops will give it a distinct advantage over ungrazed crops. The stock return to the

soil the fertility which the crop is constantly absorbing. Then set aside twenty to forty acres for the keeping of your stock during the maturing time of the wheat and barley crops. Plant this pasture land to winter emmer, cow peas and milo maize.

I am not sure that milo will grow in all parts of Morrow county, but feel confident that the farmers of lower Eight Mile and of all that section north of Heppner can grow this drought resistant crop to a great success. All of these crops I have mentioned are drought resistant and are the principal stock feed crops of the Southwest, and if they can resist the drought of this section of the universe they certainly should be able to get through the summers of Eastern Oregon.

The soils around Waurika, Oklahoma, are practically the same as the soil of the township section of Morrow county mentioned. Here, when the wheat crop is a failure the farmers have their acreage of milo and are able to carry their stock through in splendid shape. The soils of Western Texas are very similar to the soils of Eight Mile and Upper Sand Hollow. These countries are wheat producing sections, they are milo and kafir sections, and cow peas, emmer, goobers and alfalfa are found on every well regulated farm in abundance.

Milo is the surest yielding grain crop that is grown in Eastern Colorado, Western Kansas and Oklahoma, the Panhandle of Texas and Eastern New Mexico. The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports the average yield for five years at Amarillo, Texas, (and it gets as cold in Amarillo as any place south of the Canadian line,) and other dry experiment stations at forty bushels of grain per acre a year. Farmers in the same sections report yields from thirty to eighty bushels per acre.

A bushel of milo will produce from ten to eleven pounds of pork. This makes the average annual pork production from the dry lands of the southwest equal to 400 and upwards pounds of pork per acre where milo is grown and fed. Ten pounds of milo have the same feeding value for horses, beef and dairy cattle, hogs and sheep as nine pounds of corn.

Government experts recommend that milo should be grown in all countries where the annual rainfall is below twenty five inches. Farmers of the Panhandle of Texas say that it never fails to yield a crop of grain, and that it will yield twenty bushels an acre in years so dry that wheat is an absolute failure. Milo should have the same place in dry land farming and stock production that corn has in Iowa and Illinois, or wheat in the Dakotas and Washington. Milo should not be planted at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet, although it sometimes ripens at 7,000 feet.

Plant milo in rows three and a half feet apart, dropping single seeds three inches apart in the row. It may be either listed in shallow furrows, or drilled on the surface in well prepared ground. It should not be planted before the middle of May, at any rate, not until the farmer feels that his crop will be safe from frosts.

A few head of sheep on the summer fallow will keep the land clear of weeds and with a few acres sowed to pasture there is not a farmer in Morrow county who will not be able to turn off at least one carload of good fat hogs, two or three steers and a few head of mutton sheep.

The farmers of the South are beginning to find this out at the time is but a short way off when the meat line of this country will come south of the old Mason and Dixon line.

Do the farmers of the Pacific coast want their money to be sent to Texas and Nebraska to pay for the meats they eat? I think not, but they must begin to give some of their attention to this branch of the farm or the big packing institutions at Portland will be forced to turn over their money to the Nebraskan and the Southerner.

### Easter Services.

Easter Sunday was properly observed by the various churches of Heppner. Bishop Paddock preached both morning and evening at the Episcopal church, and some beautiful Easter music was rendered by the choir.

At the Christian church, the morning service was a cantata beautifully rendered by members of the Bible school, and there were very appropriate and impressive services, and beautiful floral decorations, at both Methodist churches.

The cantata, "Easter Angels," occupied the evening hour at the Methodist church, it being rendered by the choirs of the M. E. and Christian

churches, under direction of O. G. Crawford, with Mrs. Winard at the piano. This is a beautiful musical arrangement, and the combined choir of about 25 voices gave a creditable rendition of it, much to the pleasure and profit of the large audience present. Such meetings as these should be more frequent, and the singers of the town should be encouraged to present these beautiful cantatas and oratorios often. Bring the talent together and educate the musical taste of our people, bringing it up to a higher plane. It can be done to the profit and enjoyment of all.

### Dates of Wool Sales.

Secretary Dan P. Smythe, of the State Woolgrowers' association has been instructed to announce dates for wool sales as follows:

- Pendleton—May 23-June 9.
- Pilot Rock—May 26-June 10.
- Echo—May 24.
- Heppner—June 1-June 22.
- Vale—June 13.
- Ontario—June 14.
- Shaniko—June 6-June 27.
- Baker City—June 16.
- Enterprise and Wallowa County—June 30-July 11.

These dates may be changed in some particulars later on, as it may be decided to add a date for Madras.

### School Notes.

By S. E. NOTSON, Co. Supt.

Hof. Sanders, of the Alpine school, sent in several samples of work in water colors done by his pupils. The work is very creditable and the pupils are receiving a valuable training.

March 27, I visited the school in District No. 2, where I found Miss Mae Wattenburger and eight pupils doing good work. The work of the school has been interrupted by a forced vacation on account of measles, but the pupils were getting their work under way again.

On the 12th inst., I visited the Social Ridge school. Here Miss May Severance and her pupils were just closing up a successful term's work. I noted that new window boards had been provided for all the windows since my former visit, a fine flag had been purchased, and an excellent map of Oregon and Washington had been added to the equipment. The pupils have been keeping samples of their writing from time to time to note their progress, and the effect has been good. I noted some good work in the sewing card line which had been done by the primary pupils. The schoolhouse is to be painted again during the vacation.

On the same day, I visited the school in District No. 38, where Miss Mable Cameron is teacher. This school was reduced in numbers by changes in the district during the winter, but lately the tendency has been reversed, and now the school is almost up to former numbers. A new book-case has been recently placed in the school. The work is progressing nicely.

From the present outlook, there will be a large number of pupils who will take the eighth grade examination May 11-12. Several schools have extended their terms to seven months in order to meet the requirement of the new rule that pupils must have seven months' work in the seventh and eighth grades, each, before taking the eighth grade examination.

### At the Churches.

M. E. Church, South.

The Sunday School meets at 10 A. M. The Epworth League at 7:30 p. m. Baptismal service and reception of members at 11 a. m. Preaching at 8 p. m., subject, "God and the Small."

E. P. Warren, Pastor.

Christian Church

"Why Have We Failed?" will be the pastor's theme next Lord's day morning. His evening subject will be, "This Wonderful Salvation Made Plain." Other services as usual.

### Boosters Meet.

On Friday evening the Boost Club held its regular meeting at the council chambers and discussed matters of interest. The material for the community booklet was passed upon and approved, and the secretary reported that the O. W. R. & N. Co. had been settled with in full on the advertising contract. Some discussion was had touching the census count of Heppner, and it was at once decided that a new count be made, and to this end a number of members of the club were appointed to do the enumerating, the city districted, and the committee agreed to get to work immediately, make the count and report at next meeting. The street sprinkling proposition was talked up again, but nothing done to put the matter in shape to get water on the streets. Mr. Frank Kitchen, who is here looking up real estate propositions and representing a number of Dakota farmers, was present at the meeting and made an interesting talk. Mr. Kitchen had spent several weeks in the Central Oregon country before coming to Morrow county, and he frankly stated that he is much better impressed with this section. He also gave some good ideas as to proper advertising of our section and getting it before the class of people in the East that we wish to attract. His talk was to the point and much appreciated.

A communication from the Portland Chamber of Commerce announced that their publicity man, Jas. J. Sayer, would be in Heppner on Friday the 21st, and it was arranged to hold the meeting of the boosters at the dining room of the Palace hotel, Mr. Wilkins kindly extending them an invitation to do so. This will be an important meeting and should be largely attended by our citizens. Mr. Sayer is well informed in his line and is doing missionary work among the various boost clubs, development leagues and commercial bodies of the state. Do not fail to attend the booster meeting on to-morrow evening at the Palace dining room.