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# About Dairy and Farm

## Coos and Curry County Beef Production Discussed

(By E. L. Potter, Professor of Animal Husbandry, O. A. C.)

It has just been my pleasure to spend ten days in Coos and Curry Counties visiting the beef producers and riding over the ranges and looking at the grass and the cattle. During my stay I was impressed with several facts relating to the beef industry there. First the cheapness and ease with which cattle are raised, second, the exceedingly poor quality of the average run of beef cattle in that section; third, the very high quality of a small minority of the cattle.

The "prairies" of southern Coos and northern Curry Counties are doubtless the best beef producing lands in the state of Oregon. There is no place where the season is so long and grass so good. It is true that there are parts of Eastern Oregon where cattle are run fairly successfully on the range the year round but they do not keep up in as good shape as they do here on these prairies. It is, of course, true that the cattle which are allowed to run on the ranges through the winter without the use of hay, grain, or other supplementary feed, tend to get rather thin and if some cheap and convenient method of giving the additional feed for winter could be devised, it would of considerable help. But nevertheless, the cattle do unusually well without extra feed in winter, providing the grass is not eaten off to closely in the fall. To make very much of a change in the method of wintering would involve heavy expenditures in practically all cases and it is rather doubtful if the results obtained would justify the outlay. Any attempt toward winter feeding should be in a nature of a supplement to the grass rather than substitute therefor. Shutting cattle up in a muddy lot or even in a good barn and feeding them hay, grain or silage without any grass has not proven a financial success in other places and would probably not be so in Coos County. It would seem, therefore, rather necessary to feed them pretty much in the same way as is now in practice, taking care, however, to see that the ranges are not over-stocked in summer. Where the ranges are only lightly stocked in summer, the cattle go in to winter fat and strong; and not only that but there is plenty of grass for winter use, whereas with heavy stocking, the cattle are thin to start with and grass is short during the winter, consequently many will die or become exceedingly poor by spring. It is not necessary to have the cattle come through the winter very fat. Cattle turned on the grass very fat in the spring will not usually gain as rapidly as those that are not quite so fleshy. On the other hand, animals that suffer very much from lack of feed in winter become exceedingly thin and require quite a little while on summer grass in order to recuperate their general health and physical conditions before they can make any gains. Another point in connection with the management of the grazing lands that could well be kept in mind by some of our Coos County beef producers is the necessity of separating the steers from breeding cows; and nearly all of the cattle ranches are divided naturally into a number of prairies or pastures; and it is only a very small job to complete the separation by a few panels of fence and a gate. If steers run with breeding cows, especially during the breeding season, they will not fatten nearly so readily as those that have been kept entirely to themselves. In the fall of the year it is very easy to note the conditions between these steers run with cows and the steers kept by themselves. It is also desirable to keep yearlings separate from the older cattle, wherever practical to do so. The two year olds should be kept separate from the three year olds in case you do not expect to market the two year olds that year. In other words, the yearlings, the two year old stock cattle, and the older fattening cattle should be kept in separate pastures as far as possible. The loss, however, by running steers of these ages together is not to be compared with the loss occurred by running steers with cows.

We have noted above the poorer quality of the large number of Coos County beef cattle. All of Western Oregon has rather a bad reputation as to the quality of cattle turned into the market, but the coast country is notorious in this regard. I have heard it said a number of times that



A point not to be lost sight of is the large and rugged calves that are the offspring of Holsteins and the ease with which they are reared by hand and the rapid growth that they make up to maturity. There are cases where breeders of other dairy cattle have purchased a number of Holsteins for the sole purpose that they might have their milk to rear the calves successfully from their chosen breed. This has always proved good wisdom on the part of the owner of such cattle. The calf in the illustration is four months old.

you could not produce good beef anywhere in Western Oregon, and that the feeds were not suitable for making good, smooth cattle. Upon investigation of the subject I am convinced that this is not true. On the contrary, just as good cattle can be produced in Western Oregon as in any other part of the state. The inferior quality of the cattle now in Coos, Curry and other Western Oregon Counties is not due to poor natural conditions or to poor feed or grazing. On the contrary, it is almost entirely due to the inferior breeding of the cattle. A very large portion of the steers on the grass land in Coos County is of the most miserable breeding, mixed Jersey and nondescript stuff resulting in steers that are under sized, without any meat on their backs and exceedingly rough. A large number of these steers are raised by the dairymen.

The other calves are raised on skim milk, butter milk, or whey, and then turned out in the brush to rustle for themselves until they are about two years old. Then they are sold to the larger beefmen who gather them in large bunches, and run them on grass for one or two years more until they get fat enough to go to market. As a usual, the men who buy these two year olds and fatten them off on grass make some little money, providing he buys them very cheap. How the men who raise them up to the two year old stage can make anything out of them is more than we can discover. Most of the most successful dairymen which we met said that they had long since quit raising steer calves. Perhaps where a farmer owns some hill pasture too rough for dairy cattle, and for which he has no possible use, he might find some justification in running Jersey steers on it. We have seen, however, the most miserable sort of dairy calves pasturing on land that cost the farmer \$250 per acre. These calves were four or five months old, and were worth absolutely nothing whatever. One could pay \$25 a head for good well-bred beef calves and make just as much money on them as to take one of these little Jerseys as a gift. As an indication of the comparative value of good steers and of dairy steers, will make the following comparison. The Jersey calf at weaning time would be worth nothing whatever. A good Hereford calf would be worth \$25. As a yearling the Jersey would be worth \$15; the Hereford about \$42.50. The Jersey two year old would be worth about \$20; and a good Hereford two year old, \$60. The Jersey three year old would be worth \$45, and a good Hereford three year old about \$75. These prices would be applicable to the general run of Coos County cattle at the present time, referring on the one hand to the average run of Jersey and dairy bred steers, and on the other hand to Hereford or Shorthorn cattle that were reasonably well bred and practically free from dairy blood, although not necessarily pure bred, the assumption being in this case that the feed and care was approximately the same. These prices are somewhat lower than the present conditions. They are possibly, however, a little high on the Jerseys, since the tendency is now toward a still greater difference

between poor cattle and good cattle. The question may be asked, why is there such a difference? It is this: The Jersey three year old in reasonable condition would weigh about 1,000 pounds. He will be very deficient in the back, loins, and hind quarters. The fat will be on the outside and on the inside, rather than mixed with the lean. Furthermore, all the fat will be extremely yellow in color, instead of white and attractive looking. The dressing percentage will be about 54 per cent or 55 per cent providing the steer is good and fat. A good Hereford however, will weigh about 1,200 pounds, and on the present market will be worth about 6 1/4 per pound. He is straight in the back, well fleshed over the ribs and loins, rump and quarters, and furthermore, the fat will be nicely marbled with the lean, and will be of a clear white color. The dressing percentage for a good three year old Hereford, even for grass cattle, such as would be raised in Coos County, would be about 58 per cent. The difference in the price of the younger cattle is of course to the cost of production and the value of the finished product. As could be seen by this scale of prices, the man who buys the Jersey yearling at \$15 or the two year old at \$30 has a fighting chance of making a little money. The question is, where the man who raises the calf comes in. The moral of all this is of course that the man who knocks a Jersey bull calf in the head the day he is born and skins him and sells the hide for a dollar has made the only dollar that can legitimately be made on a Jersey steer. What we have said about Jersey cattle applies to other dairy cattle in the county. Of course there are a great many dairy herds that are a long way from straight Jersey, some having only a small percentage of this blood, but we find that the pure bred or high grade Jersey steer is as good as the average steer produced in the dairy sections from other blood.

From the standpoint of the professional beef men there is no material gain to be made in buying of these inferior cattle, no matter how great the loss to the original producer. In the last four or five years much high class beef blood has been produced in Coos County, with the result that every year sees a larger and higher number of strictly high class beef steers, good enough to easily top the Portland market, and in some cases to spring the top a little. The number of this class of cattle is impressing. The 1915 crop of calves show a very high percentage of beef blood, and some of the finest calves which could be found in any country are found today in Coos County. These beef producers are finding that there is more money in raising a good calf than in buying Jersey steers at almost gift prices. It will therefore be much better for all concerned when the man with grazing land raises real beef cattle, and the man with dairy raises strictly dairy cattle and kills the steer calves. This, of course, is leaving open the question of the adaptability of the dual-purpose breed of cattle to Coos County. There has been so much said, pro and con, on this subject that it is very hard to make a positive statement, yet the writer does not hesitate to state a firm conviction that the use of dual-purpose cattle will cause a greater loss to the dairyman than will produce gain for the beef man. A well-raised beef calf at weaning time on the present market is worth around \$25. A calf raised as most of the dairy steers are, however, on whey, buttermilk and skim milk, and other by-products, would not be worth \$25. We may therefore say that the use of good dual-purpose cattle, such as Shorthorns, running pretty strongly to the beef type, and entirely free from Jersey or Holstein blood, would produce calves with the system of raising now in common practice, worth about \$15 per head at weaning time; whereas, the dairy calves now being produced are worth practically nothing. It is exceedingly doubtful if the milk production from dual-purpose cattle would come within \$15 per annum of that produced by the special purpose dairy breeds.

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## May Sell Timber Lands to Loan Settlers Cash

Scheme Will Be Proposed on Assumption U. S. Will Take the Railroad Grant Lands.

Within the next few days plan for the ultimate disposition of the Oregon & California grant lands will be submitted to Secretary of the Interior Lane for his approval. Those who favor the plan say it is certain to bring a large number of settlers into Oregon. It is an outgrowth of the land grant conference held in Salem last week.

The general principle of the plan are these: It is assumed that the government will by one method or another assume control of the railway grant lands, which are valued around \$30,000,000. A strict classification of the lands will then be made, the special point being to ascertain which are suitable for immediate settlement and which bear commercial timber.

Settlers may be encouraged to go upon the acreage available for immediate cultivation. As to the timber lands it has been estimated \$20,000,000 worth or more of timber is now upon them, and it is planned to sell this timber by auction to lumber companies, selling each lot according to the state of the timber market.

As the timber is sold and cut, there will be left an immense acreage of stump land. The crux of the whole plan is the encouragement of the preparation for farming of this stump land by loaning the money derived from the sale of the timber to actual settlers, no loan to be made until complete clearing of a portion of the land has been made as evidence of good faith. The loan will become a lien on the land itself.

This plan has been followed in Minnesota with the vast area of drainage lands. These loans can, it is believed, be made also to the settlers who go upon the land not bearing timber, but belonging to the grant districts.

Entry will be made, it is thought, under a new homestead law which will provide for rights on less than 160 acres, the present size of homesteads outside the so-called "dry land" areas.

Should the settler default in repayment of his loan the government will be secured from loss through the lien upon the land, which the succeeding settler upon that homestead would assume.

The settler may, according to the plan, receive not only the first loan when he has evidenced good faith, but subsequent loans as the amount of land he has cleared of stumps and prepared for cultivation increases.

It is held that as the government will thus increase the value of the land for taxation purposes the state authorities should present no obstacles when the time comes for it to be carried out.

### ACTION OF SINGLE SPOONFUL SURPRISES MANY

Bandon people who bought the simple mixture of buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., known as Adler-i-ka are surprised at the INSTANT effect of a SINGLE SPOONFUL. This remedy is so complete a bowel cleanser that it is used successfully in appendicitis. Adler-i-ka acts on BOTH upper and lower bowel and ONE SPOONFUL relieves almost ANY CASE of constipation, sour or gassy stomach. ONE MINUTE after you take it the gasses rumble and pass out. C. Y. LOWE, Druggist. 4

W. F. Cutton, Coquille printer, was in Bandon relaxing for a few days the first of the week.

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