

Lighter Feeders Wanted By Cattlemen Now

Demand for younger and lighter weight feeder cattle is bringing about changes in the state's livestock picture.

Whether the trend will continue or not is a topic being discussed preparatory to the state agricultural conference to be held on the Oregon State college campus in March by a beef cattle and horse committee headed by Larry Williams, Canyon City.

Harry Lindgren, OSC extension livestock specialist, is secretary to the committee which includes rabbit, sheep and goat, and swine subcommittees.

While a high percentage of the feeder cattle are sold to out of state feeders, recent pasture improvement in the western portion of the state has brought problems to be considered. Among them is the fact that eastern Oregon livestock operations are "big" in comparison with western Oregon set-ups where a comparatively few head are kept.

Large operation cattlemen prefer selling feeders and other

stock in large number sales. This works to the disadvantage of the smaller western Oregon operator who must shop for a comparatively few head, the committee has found.

While it is customary to sell feeder cattle in the fall in eastern Oregon, most western Oregon grassland cattlemen prefer to obtain their cattle in the spring at the start of the pasture season.

The state's beef cow population two years of age and older now approximates 322,000 head of which 50,000 head are located in western Oregon. This latter is a comparatively recent development. In the past, a large number of cattle were sold as two and three-year olds. Today, feeders are looking for younger, lighter weight stock, the committee says.

Steers produced annually approximate 110,000, the committee adds, and a considerable number of them go into California feed lots. Development of more feeding operations in Oregon is one of the points being considered.

SHERIFF WELL NOW

Sheriff Norman Fields is about again after spending the past week end in a hospital in The Dalles because of congestion in his chest brought on by a bad

New Book Tells of Oregon's Agriculture

Rate of growth in Oregon's agriculture since 1925 has been about 3 1/2 percent a year, Oregon State college agricultural economists point out in a new extension bulletin, number 722, entitled, "Oregon's Long-term Trends in Agriculture", which is now ready for distribution.

The bulletin says cash receipts from farm marketings increased from approximately 134 million dollars during the 1925-29 period to an average 375 million for 1945-49. This is a gain of 180 percent in current dollars, partly owing to prices that increased 65 percent.

A quarter century ago, the bulletin points out, livestock products accounted for more than half of Oregon's cash receipts from farm marketings. Latest figure shows this total is now about 44 percent. While some livestock, especially sheep and hogs, have been decreasing, new types of seed crops, processing vegetables and specialty products have become increasingly important.

While value of farm products has been climbing, land used for farm crops has increased about 10 percent during the past

30 years. The total now stands at approximately 4,600,000 acres. All groups of crops except hay and tree fruits and nuts, have increased over the past three decades, according to the bulletin.

Over the years forage seed crops have shown an outstanding growth. In 1949, this group of crops accounted for nearly 8 percent of the cropland harvested, compared with less than 1 percent in 1919. Milk cows on January 1, 1951, at 235,000 were nearly a fifth below the wartime peak in 1943 and the lowest since 1930. On the other hand beef cows have been on a steady increase and on January 1 this year had reached 352,000.

NEW SPRAY TRIED

Professor Rasmussen of Washington State college is experimenting with pre-emergent spraying for tarweed control in wheat and to date the results are very encouraging. In this method spraying is done in the fall, immediately after drilling and before the wheat has emerged. Amine and ester appear to be equal for this purpose.

Terry Bucholtz is home from Washington State at Pullman to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Art Bucholtz.

Soil Conservation Districts Cover Half of State

Oregon's soil conservation district movement has progressed to a point where approximately one-half of the state's privately owned land is now included within districts.

Howard E. Cushman, executive secretary, state soil conservation committee, said recently that 36 present districts in the state include almost fourteen million acres. All of the soil conservation districts, he added,

have been formed since 1940 when the first, South Tillamook, was organized.

New districts—organized in 1951 include the Sams Valley-Beagle district in Jackson county and the Elgin in Union county which added 230,500 acres to the state total.

Oregon contains approximately sixty million acres of which one-half is public land, Cushman states. Thus, of the thirty million acres privately owned, almost one-half is organized.

Some entire counties, Josephine, Gilliam, Sherman, Morrow, Wasco, Deschutes, lie completely within soil conservation district boundaries.

For all districts, accomplish-

ments in the matter of soil and water conservation measures include 124,000 miles of contour and cross slope farming practices established, 6,000 acres of strip-cropping, 730 ranch and farm ponds developed, 500,000 feet of closed drains, sand dune control on 28,000 acres, and stream, channel erosion control on 24,000 feet of bank.

Soil conservation districts are organized, Cushman said, to coordinate activities of several agencies engaged in conservation work. Each district organized has requested and is receiving technical assistance from the soil conservation service.

The state soil conservation committee is headed by C. A. Nish, Cannon Beach, chairman.

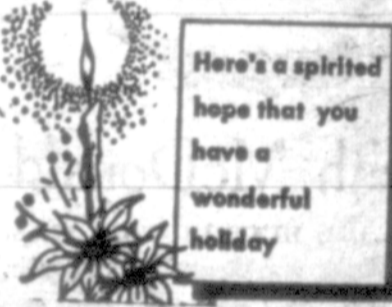


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