

Sherman Clubbers Turn to Beef Cattle

By LeROY C. WRIGHT
Moro, Oregon

The 4-H club program in a wheat area presents a number of problems. All counties in the wheat area are made up for the most part of large farms with considerable distance between farm homes. Sherman county is one of the best examples of a county which is devoted entirely to wheat in the Saate of Oregon. This means that in Sherman county there is produced very little forage crops and those crops are in the form of cereals rather than alfalfa. At the present time there is less than 100 acres in alfalfa cut for hay in the county. The farmers and the farm families necessarily devote almost their entire time to the production of wheat. It can readily be seen that a project in 4-H club work using wheat as the activity is more or less out of the question. The production of wheat overshadows all other agricultural pursuits to such an extent that the livestock program for instance in Sherman county might be considered more or less a hobby.

Livestock lends itself more readily to 4-H club projects than any other activity that one could mention, consequently the Sherman county 4-H club program is devoted almost entirely to livestock. Huge wheat surpluses have directed the attention of those conducting the club program in Sherman county towards the market type of livestock in the form of beef cattle, sheep and hogs. Since forage crops are a problem in this county much more attention has been placed on the type of livestock that does not place a large demand upon forage for its production.

During 1933 or 1934 the feeding of baby beefs by 4-H club members here began to gain in favor. This project has undergone a steady growth until for the year 1941 there were 50 head of baby beefs fed by 4-H club members in Sherman county. Local 4-H club members, due to lack of available calves locally, have had to go out of the county to buy them. Herefords, Angus and Shorthorn calves have been fed locally and have been popular in about the order named. The 1941 project included 22 Herefords, 16 Angus and 12 Shorthorns. The local program calls for the members to start their calves on feed the first of December. For grain the members are using from 50% to 75% of the total ration wheat and the remainder is made up of barley and oats. This grain feed is supplemented with a protein, usually linseed oil meal. Basically the club members attempt to use a grain ration of two pounds per day for each 100 pounds of live weight. This amount of grain of course will vary from time to time depending upon the calf. Some calves individually will consume even more grain than 2 pounds per day, however the 2 pound per day gain obtained by the since it is felt that most all baby beefs will handle about that much grain under box stall feeding conditions. Locally the program calls for regularity in feeding and has paid big dividends. The average pound per day gain obtained by the 4-H club members in this county starting with extremely young calves has for 1941 been better than 2½ pounds per day per calf. This year an individual calf made a gain of 4.1 pounds per day for 30 days. This is an extreme case, however this individual for the feeding period, gained in the neighborhood of 3 pounds per day.

Sherman county owns a trailer scales which is used regularly once a month to weigh each individual calf which has proved to be one of the most valuable assets in the market meat projects, not only for baby beefs but for market lambs and hogs. It centers the attention of the individual club member on the goal that he is striving for and that is to produce a fat animal. Prior to the securing of the trailer scales the average club member only thought of his calf as a Hereford, an Angus or a Shorthorn, whichever the case might be. It gives each of these club members an opportunity to compare the gains that he is able to secure with those of his neighbor. There is a considerable amount of competition between the members in secur-

ACP Payments Up For Land Conservation

By N. C. DONALDSON

Because the nation's wheat growers have been asked to further reduce their plantings from 62,000,000 to 55,000,000 acres in 1942, (Oregon 849,116 to 756,281) ACP payments for compliance with the wheat allotment have been increased from 8 to 10½ cents.

Growers who are seeding within their farm acreage allotment should also remember that to earn this special allotment payment, they must devote 20% of the farm's cropland to approved soil conserving uses. These uses, as listed in the 1942 Oregon AAA Handbook and amended as of November 8, are as follows:

1. Perennial grasses or perennial legumes, including new seedings if seeded alone or with a nurse crop pastured or clipped green.
2. Biennial legumes, including new seedings if seeded alone, or with a nurse crop pastured or clipped green.
3. Seeded cover crops for which a good stand and good growth is left on the land, or green manure crops, provided at least 10% of the cropland is devoted to uses listed in items 1 and 2 (perennial grasses or perennial and biennial legumes).
4. Sudan, or annual ryegrass, for pasture.
5. Approved protected summerfallow (trashy fallow), provided at least 10% of cropland is devoted to uses listed in items 1 and 2 (perennial grasses or perennial and biennial legumes), or is cropland idle as diversion since 1938 and on which a good cover has been established.
6. Forest trees planted on cropland since 1935.
7. Austrian winter peas or vetch grown for seed.
8. Land qualifying under the AAA weed control practice (No. 57), provided it is adequately protected from erosion.

SURPLUS WHEAT MAY BE FED TO LIVESTOCK

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show that 100 pounds of wheat and 200 pounds of hay will fatten an average feeder lamb to a satisfactory condition in 100 days.

The question arises frequently as to whether or not Oregon producers could utilize the surplus wheat produced in the state through livestock feeding. In answer to that question it might be suggested that whenever the price of wheat is the same as the price of corn or barley, wheat can be used to advantage in the fattening of livestock in the state.

An increase of hog production in the state is suggested as a means of utilizing the bulk of the surplus wheat. This statement is made in view of the fact that Oregon imports 50% of the pork consumed by the people of the state. If all or a part of the surplus wheat in Oregon could be fed to hogs, it would assist greatly in reducing the necessity of importing pork products from the Middle West.

The supply of feeder cattle and ing the best gains and of course in growing the best calf.

Sherman county's 4-H club motto in the baby beef project is "Get the calf fat and the prizes will take care of themselves." This was brought out to good advantage this year in that out of the 34 calves exhibited at the Pacific International Livestock Show, 26 of them placed in the money. For three years out of the last five years Sherman county's 4-H club baby beef exhibit has placed first with their county group. This would indicate that wheat not only is a good crop to grow in Sherman county but it also is a good crop to feed to beef cattle.

The market lamb and market hog project has not met with a great deal of favor locally simply because of the lack of legume hays for the lambs and the lack of suitable green feed in the form of pasture for hogs. However the local club members have placed high in their classes where they exhibited in competition with other boys and girls throughout the state in the market lamb classes and likewise have placed well in their market hog classes. Three pens of twelve lambs each are being fed by three different 4-H club boys in Sherman county and are to be on exhibit at the Eastern Oregon Wheat League during its annual meeting at Heppner this coming month.

4-H Members Find Profit From Stock

By JOHN C. BURTNER

Four-H clubs have in the past 20 years or so played an important part in the development of the state's livestock industry. In almost every county the youngsters led the way in improving the quality of their stock and in using scientific methods of feeding and management.

Parents, in many instances glad to help their youngsters on what they considered a safe pastime, found themselves a few years later copying on a larger scale the methods successfully used by their boy or girl with a single calf, hog or a baby beef.

Of late years, of course, the volume of livestock raised by the 4-H club members has become an important enterprise in itself. Last year, for example, there were 2468 club members who raised 6624 different animals in their projects. These animals were valued at just under a quarter of a million dollars and returned a profit to the club members of around \$63,000.

In the production of meat animals, including beef, hogs, and lambs, the usual thing is for club members to start out with a few head of calves, pigs, or lambs, and feed these out for market. It is not unusual for members in their six to 10 years of club work to develop a sizable herd or flock of their own in addition to those they sell. Most of those who enter the beef projects, however, feed their animals out and sell them, with fully three-fourths being sold in the form of baby beefs.

When the production of meat animals by 4-H club members reached large proportions, of course sales were set up to dispose of the animals after they had been shown. The largest such auction in the state is held in connection with the Pacific International, although other auctions are held at the state fair, and at Klamath Falls, Medford, Lakeview and Baker.

At the 4-H auction sale at the recent Pacific International 495 head of sheep, beef, and hogs were sold at a total price of \$32,614.22. These show animals nearly always sell for a premium as indicated by the average price per hundred paid this fall. Sixty-five head of sheep sold for the 4-H-ers averaged \$17.67 a hundred; 199 head of beef averaged \$14.42, and hogs averaged \$11.55.

A hog feeding contest has been sponsored among 4-H club members for the past 15 years by the Portland Union Stockyards company. In this contest each club member feeds out at least four litter mates for market. A marked improvement in quality, finish, and weight of hogs has been noticed on the market during this 15 years and the improvement applies not only to the club members themselves but to the dads and neighbors as well. Approximately 100 club members a year take part in this contest.

feeder lambs in the state does not offer the entire solution to the wheat surplus problem in view of the fact that we do not produce a sufficient number of this class of livestock to be a factor of consequence in the utilization of our surplus wheat. In other words, if all the available feeder lambs and feeder cattle were fattened on wheat, they would utilize about 5% of this grain. Hence, hog production might be the logical way out.

Seed Grass Pool Successful

Albany.—Linn county's first perennial grass seed pool has resulted in 17,040 pounds of seed being collected and distributed according to county agent F. C. Mullen. Undertaken to improve pastures in the county, the pool aided producers to dispose of their crops direct to farmers needing pasture grade perennial seed. English rye grass led the list with 12,000 pounds purchased.

MORO.—Two successful methods of handling bulk wheat in farm storage have been reported in Sherman county by L. C. Wright, county agent. On the L. P. Haven and Marion Powell ranches the grain is driven into steel bins with blowers, and S. A. Hall has constructed a farm elevator on a hillside which he fills by gravity.

Closely related to the meat and animal work is that of the club members who enter dairy projects. This is one of the most popular projects in the state, with 1275 members participating last year, who made a total profit in excess of \$32,000. The dairy project is popular in all the irrigated sections of eastern Oregon, as well as in western Oregon and coast counties. A club member ordinarily starts with a heifer calf which he grows and breeds. It is not unusual for dairy club members to own from six to 12 fine dairy females by the time they end their club work.

Oregon livestock breeders have aided the club members by providing them with good quality feeding or breeding animals at reasonable prices. Banks and credit associations have also willingly financed club members where necessary.

The lamb feeding contest being

featured at this meeting of the Eastern Oregon Wheat league is an outgrowth of the emphasis that has been placed recently on the feeding of wheat to beef, hogs, and lambs, particularly in the eastern part of the state. The club members, as well as adult feeders, have demonstrated repeatedly that wheat can safely and profitably be used as a livestock feed when it is priced low enough to warrant its use either with or instead of other feed grain.

The sheep club members taking part in this special contest are among more than 500 such members in the entire state. Last year 514 sheep club members raised 2657 animals, which returned them a profit of approximately \$11,000.

Livestock has always been one of the major agricultural industries of the state and its position as such is being strengthened by the work of the 4-H club members in every county.

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