

State Feeder Cattle, Lamb Numbers Down This Year From Last

Feeder cattle set an all-time record in the U. S. as of January 1, but in Oregon fewer cattle are being fed, according to a review of U. S. department of agriculture figures at Oregon State college.

The USDA estimates there are 5,836,000 head on feed throughout the nation or 16 percent over a year ago. North Central states have a new record of 23 percent more on feed than in 1952. Iowa has reported a 27 percent increase and Nebraska, 40 percent.

The West, however, has a different story with a 2 percent drop for cattle on feed over last year. Colorado and California, the most



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important feeding states in the West, showed decreases of 1 and 15 percent respectively.

Fewer cattle are being fed in Oregon, Utah and Washington while Arizona and Nevada show no change. Idaho, New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming have more cattle on feed and Texas and Oklahoma also report on increase in feeder cattle.

Corn belt feeders intend to market their feeder stock at a faster rate than last year, with 41 percent of the January 1 inventory expected to hit the markets by April 1. However, marketings of better grades may be up only slightly in the next few months.

The number of sheep and lambs on feed for market in the U. S. as of January 1 was 7 percent smaller than last year. The USDA estimates there are 3,754,000 head, or 284,000 less than last year.

The number of lambs on feed in Oregon is down 5 percent from 1952. Colorado shows a decrease of 20 percent while Montana and Arizona each are down 22 percent. New Mexico is lower by 3 percent and Nevada and Wyoming reported no change in numbers. Washington is up 32 percent; Idaho, 28; California, 9; and Utah, 1 percent.

It's Time to Check Farm Equipment, Reminds Specialist

There is not much time left to condition farm equipment before field work begins, is the reminder from M. G. Huber, extension agricultural engineer specialist at Oregon State college. Timely servicing of all farm machinery will reduce accidents and costly field breakdowns, says the specialist. He adds that poorly

conditioned equipment is irritating fatiguing and inefficient.

Farm machinery repairs should begin with a thorough inspection of hitches, seats, clutches, breaks and other controls as well as unguarded revolving parts such as gears, chains, and shafts, explains Huber. As a precaution against fires, he advised farmers to check fuel lines and wiring systems.

Huber says it's also important to remove dirt, trash and grease

from platforms, pedals foot rests or steps to assure safe footing.

Take time to equip tractors with fire extinguishers and tight-on holders for grease guns or other servicing tools carried on the tractor, is the specialist's advice.

Loose accessories may lead to falls or other casualties. A secure step or grab bar may also prevent a fall when getting on or off the tractor.

Special care should be taken in

checking home-made labor saving equipment for accident hazards. The operator's safety is often overlooked in building this type of equipment.

SPEECH FESTIVAL SET FOR IRRIGON

Students from all the county schools are participating in the annual Morrow county speech festival held all day today at the Irrigon school. Grade and high school events are held separately and a series of one-act plays will be presented in the evening by the participating high schools.

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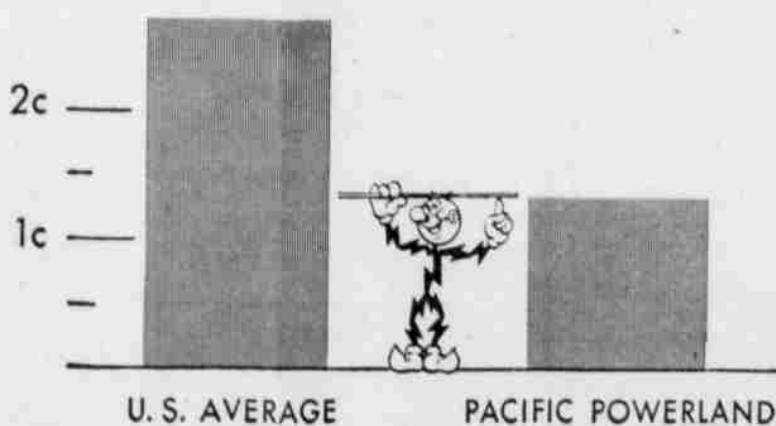
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