

### From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

There is still low percentage calf crops in Morrow County even with the good cattle improvement projects that have been carried on during the past few years. Occasionally we run across a rancher who is getting 10% less calves than is economical or than need be. While it is getting late to do anything about it for this year, there are a few tips that contribute towards a higher percentage calf crop and shorter calving period. They are: 1. rotate bulls every week or ten days if pasture breeding; 2. see that bulls are distributed on the range and keep them scattered; 3. replace bulls that show evidence of unsoundness or are lame or sick; 4. use enough bulls. Under range conditions one to every 25 cows, on pasture a sound bull in good condition will settled thirty to fifty cows.

Now that fly control time is here, livestock operators should be thinking of this important fly control operation. It is estimated that control of horn flies increased production of meat and milk forty-five million dollars worth. In one recent year in Kansas, cattlemen figured the use of 5¢ worth of DDT indirectly increased the value of a steer by \$16.00. Oregon State College's new circular "Livestock Pest Control" gives recommendations for fly control. A copy is available at this office.

As harvest time grows near, it appears that another bumper crop is in prospect. This means that much grain will be stored on the farm, some of it finding its way into storage facilities that are not best suited for long grain storage. It is even more important this year, that farmers clean out and spray bins before storage. Now is the time to do it if weevils and other farm storage insects are going to be destroyed and bins dried out from the spray that is applied.

There is nothing particularly new this year in regards to materials for spraying grain storage bins. Several insecticides are effective D. D. T. and Methoxychlor are perhaps the two most common that will be used. They should be prepared at the rate of 42 pounds of 50% wettable DDT or Methoxychlor to 100 gallons of water; when spraying particular attention should be paid to getting in to all cracks where the insects may be harboring. Of equal importance is the need for sweeping down the grain bins with a stiff broom before spraying with insecticides. Insecticide application will be relatively ineffective if applied on a dusty or dirty surface. For special conditions or further information we have several good circulars in the office dealing with the subject of protecting grain from insects.

In a new bulletin from Oregon State College, entitled "Reducing

### SAM'S A SHEPHERDER



Congressman Sam Coon, Republican, of Oregon's Second District, is now an honorary shepherd. Rep. Coon is shown receiving his shepherd's crook from W. H. Steiner, of Fossil, Oregon, former President of the Oregon Woolgrowers Association, and immediate past President of the National Woolgrowers Association. Coon was awarded the title last week by the National Association for his services to the ranchers of the Northwest. The Eastern Oregon Congressman, who was raised on a sheep ranch in the Snake River Basin, declared, "I might have been called an 'ornery shepherd' a time or two, but this is the first time I was ever called an 'honorary' one."

Dairy Cost" the present dairy situation is analyzed and discussed. Pointing out that milk prices are down, sales are lagging, there was more milk in Oregon than in the nation in many years and competition is great from other foods and farm products. However, the circular points out that dairymen will still pay for Oregon farmers that can meet lower prices with lower costs. This can be done through such things as getting more production per cow, the use of more and better roughage, feeding grain according to production, saving labor, keeping records and using them. Under the saving labor heading, a study of 45 dairy farms from Oregon State College, showed an average of 145 hours labor per cow per year. Some showed over 300 hours and some less than 100. Time saved becomes available for other jobs.

Grain harvest is under way in Morrow County. The first to harvest that we know of was Glen Campbell near Buttercreek. Glen completed a harvest of 600 acres of winter club barley on July 5th. It produced just slightly under 1 ton per acre of high quality barley. It appeared to be number 1 with slightly over 6 percent moisture content. It is stored at the Pendleton Grain Growers warehouses in Echo and will be eligible for barley loan.

Wheat harvest got under way at several ranches in North Morrow County on July 5th. Reported harvesting were Lucillians, Ashbecks, Tuckers and Van Buskirk. Visiting at the Glen Campbell ranch Tuesday afternoon we found about 21 hundred bushels of Turkey wheat harvested yielding around 20 bushels per acre of number 1 wheat.

For those who did not find any Meloy Barley seed last fall, Oscar Peterson, Jone rancher, has a seeding of it that is grown from Certified seed from the Pendleton Branch Experiment Station. While it is eligible for seed certification, Mr. Peterson will not have it certified. It is however, a good source of seed stock and farmers who are interested should contact Mr. Peterson. Meloy is a high yielding hay type barley. It has been one of the good barley's at the Sherman Branch Experiment Station at Moro especially as a high variety.

A note from the State 4-H Club office this week congratulates Morrow County for its good contribution towards the International Farm Youth Exchange program. The 4-H Club council has sponsored a square dance each year with the proceeds to go to this program. The International Farm Youth Exchange program is one whereby American and Foreign young men and women are exchanged in order that they can live on farms and see the way that other countries live. Morrow County has been a good contributor to this program, however, they

Youth Exchange students work and live on the farm with farm families during the time they are assigned. Anyone who is interested in the program, may get further information from this office.

Plans have now been completed for the educational meetings of the 1955 wheat marketing quotas. Morrow County's meeting will be held at the Lexington Grange hall on Thursday evening July 15th. The time of meeting will be 8:00 p. m. The extension service, Oregon Wheat Growers League and the ASC committee will participate in this meeting to bring wheat farmers up to date on farm program legislation, the wheat acreage allotment program for 1955, particulars concerning the wheat marketing quota referendum which will be held on July 23, and a discussion of what to do with diverted acres. A large attendance is anticipated.

Visiting the Hermiston, Pendleton and Moro branch experiment stations last week, the agent had the opportunity to go over the various research projects that are being carried on in all types of farming carried out in Morrow County. Fertilizer work, tillage practices, weed control work, forage crops, new and old; pasture improvement work; miscellaneous crops for diverted acres; and cereal trials and crop breeding program were observed and discussed. Much information was gathered in all of these projects. Perhaps the most interesting was the weed control work that is being done by Dave Bayer, research man assigned to the Columbia Basin. Mr. Bayer was put on weed control work in the Columbia Basin area through efforts of the Wheat Growers League approximately a year ago. His experimental work will contribute much I am sure to the control of weeds in this area. Most extensive work has been done on the control of annual weeds in wheat this spring. Various amounts of various selective chemicals were applied on many acres at the Hill and Crow Pilot Farms near Weston and Helix. One of the most interesting weed experimental plots was that of applying these chemicals at weekly intervals starting in February and continuing through May. Plots were re-

peated each week using various amounts and various chemicals. Thermometers with recording graphs were located in each of the plots to get the effect of temperatures on weed control. It was interesting to note that wherever low temperatures were encountered, weed control was poor and damage to the wheat was evident. We will have harvest yields later to compare with various applications.

Some time ago the Morrow County Livestock Growers Association Marketing Committee decided that they would have a listing of livestock for sale in Morrow County as is done in many counties throughout Oregon. Cards were mailed to all Morrow County livestock growers for them to list livestock that they would have to sell during the summer, fall and winter months. The reply was very discouraging. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association, convinced that such a listing is very helpful to buyers and sellers alike decided that they would make a directory of cattle available for sale throughout the entire state. Letters were mailed to all members of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association asking that they list cattle for sale. In the July issue of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association asking that they list cattle for sale. From this, it appears that Morrow County livestock men are satisfied with the prices they receive for their livestock.

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