

'56 Oregon Outlook For Beef Cattle, Hogs, Lambs Listed

Oregon cattlemen, contrary to national trends, have cut back total beef cattle numbers for 1956 even though local winter feed lots are bulging with a record number of steers.

But local efforts to revive sagging prices will likely be nullified with pressure from slight national increases in cattle numbers, say Oregon State college specialists.

Big reductions in Oregon cattle numbers include 19,000 fewer yearling heifers, 2,000 fewer bulls, and 11,000 fewer calves. This forecasts some drop in local stocker and feeder supplies this year, reports W. Y. Fowler, OSC livestock marketing specialist.

Oregon's beef cattle production of 1,456,000 on January 1 was down two percent from last year, even though the number of steers rose from 114,000 to 129,000, Fowler reports.

Other current beef cattle figures for Oregon are 119,000 yearling heifers, 328,000 calves, and 32,000 bulls. Mature cows, the only segment in breeding animals to show an increase, rose from 495,000 last year to 505,000 for 1956.

Nationwide, total beef cattle numbers are up about one percent over 1955 to a new high of 97 1/2 million. A record number of mature cows, plus 321,000 more calves now totaling more than 19 million head, seem likely to hold local beef prices down despite the Oregon cutback, says M. D. Thomas, OSC agricultural economist.

Thomas says the beef picture now adds up to this:

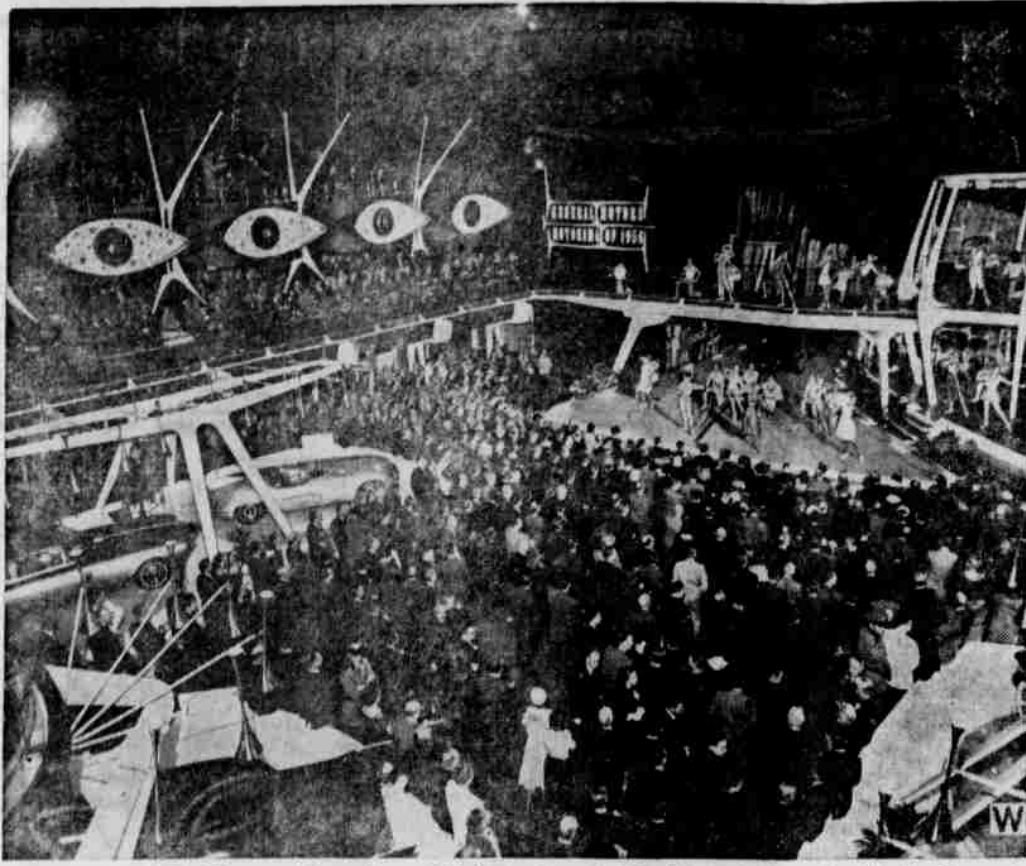
Another big national calf crop in 1956 with calf prices likely to be lower than in 1955.

An increase over the small slaughter of calves last year.

More stocker and feeder cattle for sale the last six months of this year than during the same period in 1955.

Less recovery in beef prices next fall than seemed likely earlier.

Elsewhere in meat animal trends, Thomas looks for lower hog prices and for lamb prices to follow beef. National hog numbers are up nine percent over



NEW YORK—The possible pattern of highway travel of the future is dramatized in the General Motors Motorama of 1956, shown here as a New York audience watched fast-moving Motorama stage entertainment at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. After a Jan. 19-24 public showing in New York, the giant admission free GM display of "dream cars" and other attractions will appear in Miami, Feb. 4-12 and later in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Boston.

last year, now totaling more than 55 million. Oregon's increase is even greater—24 percent more hogs now numbering 157,000 head. Most of the increase is for the spring market and is expected to push prices down during the next two or three months.

Thomas says prices next fall will depend on the size of the nation's spring pig crop coming from two percent fewer sows.

Far from alarmed by the big Oregon increase in hog numbers, the OSC specialists say local growers are now in position to capture a larger part of the local pork markets. Oregon still ships in about two-thirds of its pork supplies.

Oregon sheep and lamb numbers declined from 847,000 in 1955 to 830,000 this year—a bigger cutback than the national decline of one percent with total U. S. sheep and lambs numbering 31,109,000.

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OSC Plans Study Of Oregon Wheat Growers Problems

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Plans for an intensive study of Oregon's wheat industry problems and of long-range recommendations on future wheat production, marketing and utilization have been announced by the Oregon State Growers League.

The study made in 1925 that served as an industry guide for more than 20 years, Dean F. E. Price said.

All divisions of the school of agriculture—instruction, experiment station and extension service—will cooperate in the study. Seven staff members have been named to the central planning committee.

They are J. R. Beck, Manning Becker, Wilson Foote, Harold F. Hollands, E. R. Jackman, Paul Mohn and Ray Teal. Jackman also served on the 1925 study.

Four committees of from 25 to 40 members are planned to consider production and land use, marketing, farm income and costs, and government programs. Committee members will be drawn from all sections of the state and from all parts of the wheat industry, including growers, processors, handlers and consumers. The committees, which will be called together soon for their organization meetings, will spend several months gathering

data and forming recommendations.

They will make their reports at a statewide meeting early in 1957.

The 1925 conference, held at Moro, brought organization of the Wheat Growers League and other recommendations that pointed the answers to many of the problems confronting growers at that time, Dean Price explained.

Reduced wheat crop values and reduced acreages are the two big problems facing growers today, he said. The value of Oregon's wheat crop during the last three years has been cut 40 percent—from around \$74 million in 1935 to \$44 million in 1955.

The wheat industry normally uses almost 2 million of Oregon's 5 million acres of cropland. In 1953 before allotments, more than 1,300,000 acres were planted to wheat and the balance was in summer fallow. The 1956 wheat acreage allotment is 819,522 acres.

Hepner High School SCOOP

By Alice Peterson
Dale Osmin, Jay Sumner, and Shirley Palmer won the Future Business Leaders of America Easter hat contest.

Candidates for king and queen of the band carnival have been selected. Those from the senior class are Edith Morris and Lowell Turner. Mona Howard and Dean Connor are the junior class candidates. Ron McCabe and Peggy Applegate, sophomores; and Janice Martin and Dick Robinson, freshman choice.

Clyde Martin of the state department of education visited Hepner high school Tuesday and Wednesday.

The constitution was presented to the student body for approval last Friday.

The ensemble groups from the Hepper band that went to the music festival at Pendleton, on March 30 received ratings as follows: clarinet trio, senior division—H, clarinet duet, junior division—H, and vocal solo by Marilyn Munkers received a rating of III.

Those attending the district speech festival at La Grande this Friday and Saturday are, Meredith Thomson, George Little, Darrel Blake, James Monahan, Lance Tibbles, Betty Rose, and Wayne Soward. W. J. Popham will accompany them.

Shirley Kononen has announced that she will run for state vice-president of the FBLA. Jim Morris is her campaign manager and Janice Beamer is his assistant. They plan to make sage brush corsages to pass out at the convention, and wear shirts with Shirley's name on them.

Mrs. William Weatherford will substitute for Mr. Popham while he is in La Grande.

Planted Fish Losses Drastically Reduced In Stream Study

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Oregon's lakes and streams may be better stocked with game fish in the future as result of research at Oregon State college.

This optimistic outlook comes from the laboratories of the Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research unit at OSC where scientists report they have found a way to drastically cut the "delayed mortality" rate, or death of fish within a week after planting. The key is temperature control.

Research shows the mortality rate of planting fish can be reduced from the estimated 10 percent average of past years to less than one percent.

Since some 500,000 pounds of trout are planted annually in Oregon, the 10 percent mortality rate would mean a loss each year of about 50,000 pounds. Figuring the cost of raising trout at not less than one dollar a pound, the value of fish lost would amount to some \$50,000.

Two graduate students at OSC—Howard F. Horton and Wayne Linn—have studied the problem of delayed mortality in their work for master of science degrees.

Horton says temperature control in the planting tanks, appears to be the principal factor in mortality. However, research is continuing in an attempt to learn the causes. One approach is through use of drugs to reduce nervous tension in the fish—one suspected cause of delayed mortality.

The Oregon state game commission uses two standard types of tanks in transplanting fish from the hatchery to planting site. In one type of tank, Horton and Linn found by keeping water temperature lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit mortality was reduced to less than one percent. In the other type, temperatures between 40 to 43 degrees got the same results.

Mechanical refrigeration or chunks of ice may be used to maintain the desired temperature, Horton observed. In the past, without controls, temperatures ran as high as 50 to 65 degrees, depending on weather conditions.

Miss Jean Marie Graham spent the Easter weekend at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Graham.

Pilot Meat Program Now in Eastern Ore.

Slaughterhouses and meat packing plants in Morrow, Malheur, Union, Baker and Gilliam counties will be under the pilot meat inspection program operations from March 26 until April 13. The state department of agriculture, which is conducting this survey at request of the legislature, says 12 plants will come under antemortem and post-mortem inspections in these counties at this time. Other plants in the areas are already under voluntary state inspection or inoperative at present.

The pilot program, which for the short period follows a pattern of compulsory meat inspection, will enter its twelfth area with these inspections. Two four-man inspection teams, each headed by a veterinarian inspector, will be in the plants constantly during the three weeks.

Information and findings gathered from the survey will be compiled in detail for presentation to the 1957 legislature, which wants to know whether compulsory statewide meat inspection is desirable and necessary and how much it will cost, according to J. F. Short, director of agriculture.

Dr. Rolla Sexauer, assistant state veterinarian working out of Salem, will be in each of these counties periodically during the pilot operations. He is field supervisor for the operations. He says plant operators have cooperated well with the pilot program in all areas in which the inspectors have operated. In addition to actual meat inspections, the pilot crew carries on educational work to help the plants correct insanitary practices and conditions.

FAIR-MINDED

This year we hope to see many exhibits from the North section of the county and are really looking forward to their help in making this the Biggest Little Fair in Oregon. As always, any suggestions or help are sincerely appreciated by the Fair Committee.

Mrs. W. M. Fisher, mother of Mrs. Tom Wilson, left Sunday for Phoenix, Arizona where she plans to vacation for about a month. She was accompanied by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. W. E. Fisher of Walla Walla.

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