

# County Agent Writes Of Farms Elsewhere

By N. C. ANDERSON

Greetings from Utah! This is being written in St. George, one of the oldest Mormon settlements in the state. In this picturesque setting of the red hills adjacent to Zion National Park sugar beets, alfalfa, and turkey production is the major agricultural income of the area. Tomorrow we leave Utah after four days of touring agricultural enterprises, small business developments and sight seeing. Las Vegas is our next stop.

Today was an interesting one spent with Beaver County Agent Grant Esplin, who is responsible for a diversified agriculture. He has been active in rural area development programs in the county for many years, one of which is a cooperative milking barn in the community for Minersville. In the early 1940's ten dairymen joined in a cooperative milking barn project and today there are 700 cows owned by 30 dairymen brought to the barn twice daily to be milked. Milking begins at 1:30 a.m. and two men milk them by 9:00 a.m. Milking begins again at 1:30 p.m.

It is quite a sight to see boys or the wife bringing the cows to the barn from lots around the ranchers live in this small settlement. A charge is made for the five pounds of grain feed each cow as well as a 15 cent milking charge. Twelve cows are milked each six minutes. Milk is trucked to Las Vegas for market. Another project of this cooperative minded community, is the Minersville Land Cooperative where ten ranchers have purchased 1280 acres of irrigated land, irrigated by five deep wells, to provide pasture for 3200 beef cows. One of the best pastures of grass and alfalfa I have seen provides the excellent pasture.

Visits during the week have included outstanding dairy enterprises, reclamation of alkali land, storage ponds, a dairy farm that now provides income as an attraction for Salt Lake city children.

**New Industries Springing Up**  
Automation in the laying chicken and turkey business has really increased efficiency here. One ranch visited raises 350,000. Brooding, raising, slaughtering and marketing the turkeys in a complete operation. A visit to a phosphate fertilizer plant, the Kennecott Copper Mine, the U. S. Steel plant in Provo, gave a good insight into these industries.

Something new was a beaver ranch where 9000 beavers are kept on a beaver breeding farm. We found that males are boars, females are sows, and the young are kits. A family enterprise, all work is done by sons and daughters of the family. Skins sell for \$80 to \$100 each.

Today we saw hundreds of deep wells that pump as much as 3200 gallons per minute. The state of Utah allows no more wells to be dug in this area. One ranch that depends on four of these wells for irrigation water for 640 acres was visited today. The farm grows 80 acres of certified white Rose potatoes for seed, 240 acres of spring wheat, 300 acres of alfalfa; the rest in Amur intermediate wheatgrass and for seed. The alfalfa hay that averages 5 tons per acre is put up by the two young sons by weather-crimper, baled, picked up by a self-propelled Haro-bed bale stacker—the hay is never touched by human hands. A homemade loader that works automatically loads a truck and trailer with 26 tons which is delivered to the Las Vegas milk sheds. The air conditioned truck cab is equipped

with bed, so the truck need not stop on the daily trips.

**Sees Need for Good Management**  
It is easy to see the need for efficient farm management that is necessary now for a rancher to continue in agriculture. Sound management decisions, efficient operation, reduced labor and volume are evident in the operations that are succeeding.

It is also interesting to visit with many ranchers on their thoughts concerning the outlook for wheat farmer. Much dryland wheat is growing in this country. Many feel that the price of wheat will encourage more livestock and poultry feeding that will add economy to this section.

Agents from Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Montana, Wyoming, Washington, and Hawaii in addition to myself, traveling in two cars, are on the tour. We are looking forward to seeing small watershed developments, sugar beet seed production, cotton oil milling, cattle feed lot operations, lettuce production and harvest, range development, Indian tribal beef ranch improvement, sheep ranching under fence, as well as many agriculture business concerns that will be seen in the next two weeks of the tour. I am especially interested in and surprised to see, every small town in this area with a factory of some kind. We are told these moved to the area because of availability of labor and the absence of labor unions. Much of this labor comes from part-time farmers. They seem to come to these areas with little effort from these communities.

## Beef Council Okays Budget for 1963-64

The Oregon Beef Council at its regular monthly meeting at the Beef Council office, Imperial Hotel, recently passed its 1963-64 budget of \$77,260.00 according to Richard Westerberg, Medford, Chairman of the Council.

The new budget, which takes effect July 1, 1963, is some 7% higher than the current budget. The funds, which are derived from the sale of Oregon cattle, will be used for cattle industry studies, research and beef promotion.

"Specific programs which will be financed by the new budget and benefit the cattle industry will include public land and wilderness studies, sanitation and disease control, brands, feed grain programs, imports and tariffs, freight rates and other areas of concern to the industry," Westerberg stated. The Beef Council will also finance an economic study of the states cattle industry in cooperation with Oregon State University.

The Beef Council budget will also finance merchandising, promotion and educational programs conducted by the Oregon Cow Belles. Funds will also go to the National Livestock and Meat Board for national beef promotion and research.

The Council expects beef rates in the state to be \$50,000 head in the coming fiscal year starting July 1, 1963. The Council derives 10¢ from each animal sold. However, the seller is refunded his money upon request. Refunds made during the past year totaled approximately 15% of funds collected. Two years ago refund payments were averaging 30% of total funds collected. Westerberg said "this indicates active support and growing confidence from the cattlemen for the projects and programs carried on by the Oregon Beef Council."

# FARM NEWS

## Expanding Market For Oregon Cattle Predicted at OSU

Expanding California markets for Oregon-grown beef were predicted by a West Coast livestock specialist at the annual Oregon State University Beef Cattle Day.

Some signs indicate that a cattle feeding in California has reached its peak and may taper off in years ahead, reported Reuben Albaugh, University of California.

At the same time, demand for finished beef in California will increase rapidly with the state's population growth and high level per capita income. Albaugh told some 150 Oregon cattlemen attending the meeting.

California now imports nearly 2 million head of stocker and feeder cattle that are finished in California feedlots. The state also imports about one-half its needed supply of livestock feeds for finishing beef animals in lots. This combination of importing both unfinished animals and feed imposes limitations even though feedlots are highly efficient, operating on large-volume, low-unit profits, the specialist explained.

More than 450,000 head of finished cattle are imported into California in 1962 for immediate slaughter with about three-fourths of this number coming from Arizona. Oregon supplied only 18,000 head but has the potential for greatly increased sales of finished beef, believe many Oregon livestock market authorities.

In 1961, Oregon produced about 500,000 calves and 166,000 cull cows—most of which were shipped out of state for finishing in states that have developed grain feeding industries, according to a recent study by Oregon State University.

Beef cattle feeding in Oregon now generates about \$53 million annually in local economic activity. The OSU study estimates it would be \$250 million if the state's potential feed grain resources were "marketed" through finished beef.

Beef market opportunities in California were pointed up by Albaugh with a report that California's present population of more than 16 million persons is expected to top 21 million by 1970. And Californians are heavy beef eaters—about 130 pounds per capita a year compared to 87 pounds for the U. S. average. This is, in part, a reflection of high income per capita.

## Contractors Offer Road Efficiency Aid to Counties

The Associated General Contractors today announced development of a program offering research, consultation and technical assistance intended to aid Oregon counties in determining the most economical and feasible method of county construction.

In describing the project, Leonard Runkle, president of the Portland Chapter, AGC, said the new service would be available to officials of Multnomah county and the state's 35 other counties so that the county and the taxpayers may obtain the best possible road construction for the least amount of dollars.

"The many years of experience with AGC members have in the construction of roads, the results of their research and the benefits of their technical knowledge are being offered without obligation to officials of any county with the hope that this assistance may bring about cooperative teamwork that could benefit both the industry and the public," Runkle added.

A special committee consisting of representatives of the Associated General Contractors, Association of Oregon Counties and Association of Oregon County Engineers and Surveyors already has been working for more than two years in preparing the groundwork for the joint cooperative effort.

Primary emphasis in the program is being placed upon encouraging counties to adopt an economically valid cost accounting system which will give a realistic comparison between different methods of construction.

"Once these figures are available, counties may determine whether their problems can best be solved with construction by contract or construction by public employees," Runkle added.

"In a typical case, should the public employee method appear to be the most logical approach, the AGC then would offer to advise the county on any further money-saving or result modifications of the project as may be indicated.

"If construction by contract is determined as the most feasible method, the AGC would encourage widespread participation in competitive bidding not only by AGC members but by all contractors.

"Further, the AGC would propose that the contractor offer to perform work by the center line survey method wherein the contractor assumes responsibility for the greater share of required engineering.

## Welcome to Oregon Mats Greet Visitors

Sixteen highway entrances into Oregon have now been painted at the state borders with the "Welcome to Oregon" green mats that stretch out 152 feet to form a greeting sign for all travelers entering the state.

These 16 large welcome mats are located in every area of the state wherever a major highway crosses the border, according to Forrest Cooper, state highway engineer.

Paint crews of the Highway Department will also paint welcome mats on several other entrances to the state as soon as possible. These other highways include roads under construction and those in remote areas.

All incoming lanes have the "Welcome to Oregon" painted in letters eight feet tall. On the outgoing lanes are letters of the same size stating "Hurry Back."

This is the second year that the Highway Department has painted the welcome mats on state entrances. Welcome mats now painted are at the state entrances of the Oregon Coast Highway, the Pacific Highway, the Columbia River Highway, the Oregon-Washington Highway, the Enterprise-Lewiston Highway, the Weiser spur, the Payette spur, the Old Oregon Trail Highway, the Nyssa-Adrian Highway, the Fremont Highway, the Klamath Falls-Mallin Highway, the Hatfield Highway, the Dalles-California Highway, and the Redwood Highway.

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## Gloomy Water Outlook Changes To 'Satisfactory'

The 1963 water supply outlook in Umatilla, Morrow and Gilliam counties has changed greatly this year from an extremely gloomy mid-winter prospect to a reasonably satisfactory situation for most lands served from stored water supplies, according to a report released today by T. P. Helseth, State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service (USDA) cooperating with Oregon State University, Oregon State Engineer and others. Some late season shortages are foreseen for lands dependent upon natural stream-flow.

A few abnormally warm days about mid-May removed all but a few patches of snow in the higher mountains. This year's "short" snowpack disappeared very rapidly. Moisture in the soil mantle on the upper water sheds has been close to saturation. These wet soils have greatly assisted in the runoff from rains and from the light snowpack.

Cold Springs reservoir has 46,300 acre feet of water ready for use compared with 50,000 a.f. at this date last year. McKay reservoir has 63,500 acre feet in storage compared with 55,000 a.f. one year ago. These supplies will be adequate only if careful use is made of the water.

Flow of the Umatilla near Umatilla (from preliminary data furnished by the U. S. Geological Survey, Portland) has been 46 per cent of the May average and only 71 per cent of the October-May average.

Forecast of flow of the Umatilla at Pendleton for the May-September period is 55,000 acre feet or 56 per cent of average. The South Fork of the Walla Walla is forecast at 37,000 acre

feet or 64 per cent of average May through September.

Butter Creek has been having a strong flow and is now forecast to produce 5,500 acre feet May through September or 112 per cent of average.

Statewide, Oregon's 1963 water supply outlook has changed greatly this year from a gloomy mid-winter prospect to a currently satisfactory situation for most lands served from stored water supplies. However, thousands of acres of land depending on natural flow of streams will have severe late season shortages unless unexpected rains fall at opportune times.

Boxed typing paper reasonably priced at the Gazette-Times.

## Examiner Coming

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Heppner Tuesday, June 25, 1962 at the courthouse between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., according to an announcement received from the Department of Motor Vehicles of Oregon. Persons wishing original licenses or permits to drive are asked to file applications well ahead of the scheduled closing hour in order to assure time for completion of the required license test.

Ben Cox returned Sunday after a 2-weeks stay with his daughter and family, Sgt. and Mrs. James McNabb, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

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