

County Agent's Office

Record Keeping Program Helps Breeding Quality

By N. C. ANDERSON

For many years, herd sire quality has been emphasized in an attempt to provide to the cattle breeder top confirmation, higher gaining ability, at the lowest cost per pound in their cattle not only in Oregon, but throughout the entire country. Increased emphasis has been given during the past 15 years here and a number of our purebred breeders carry out a program of grading and producing record keeping.

This year, Herbert Ekstrom and Sons, Lone, have found that many of their bulls and heifers have qualified for certificates of performance under the Performance Registry International, a nation wide beef production organization, that recognizes outstanding performances in the beef cattle industry. While we sometimes become disappointed from the lack of interest of commercial and registered breeders in these production records when it is time to purchase a herd sire, we must admit that we are seeing progress.

A recent summary of the 1963 Red Bluff Bull sale, one of the large bull sales in the nation, verified this trend of livestock breeders toward selecting herd sires for quality. Prices received in each of the three breeds sold, Herefords, Angus and Shorthorns, demonstrated that commercial cattlemen are willing to pay a premium for quality cattle. For example, in the Hereford breed two plus bulls at this sale brought \$365 more than bulls grading 2; bulls in the 2 bracket brought \$240 a head more than those grading 2 minus. Of 258 Hereford bulls consigned, 39 or 13.1% were given a sift-grade

and not allowed to go through the sale.

Cattlemen are also quality conscious in purchasing Angus bulls. The 2 plus bulls at this sale brought \$283 more per head than the 2 bulls; the two bulls brought \$120 more than the two minus bulls. Over 38% of the Angus bulls were sifted. With the Shorthorns, cattlemen paid over \$200 more per head for the 2 and 2 plus bulls than they did for the 2 minus bulls. Twenty-one per cent were sifted.

Feed Grain Exports High

Feed grain exports now have a bigger value than any other U. S. farm commodity export, with the exception of wheat and flour. We are exporting on the average over \$2 million worth of feed grains every day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Our 1962-63 feed grain exports of 15.0 million tons would fill 1,500 ships. If loaded into boxcars, this volume of grain would make a single train over 3,000 miles in length.

September 30 Deadline For Gas Tax Refund Claim

Ranchers are reminded that their claim for refund for federal tax on gasoline used on the farm must be filed with the U. S. District Director of Internal Revenue before September 30, 1963. This covers the period of gasoline used from July 1, 1962, through June 30, 1963.

All farmers who have claimed refund of federal tax in the past will have received form 2240 in the mail several weeks ago. If in the harvest rush, you have misplaced your form, we have a few at the office or they can be secured from U. S. District

Director of Internal Revenue, Portland, Oregon.

County Fall Weed Meeting Set for September 19

Sometime ago we mentioned in this column plans for holding a fall weed meeting with the date of September 19 set for Morrow county. It will be held in the Fair Annex building in Heppner, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Included on the program will be a rather comprehensive discussion of fence row and chemical fallow spraying recommendations which will include application equipment, proper calibration, accurate marking, and provide for a question and answer period. It is hoped by this date that Simizon will be cleared for selective control of weeds in alfalfa. This will be discussed as well as other phases of stubble mulch farming and cheat-grass control.

Many ranchers who seeded early last fall, found a heavy infestation of weeds that necessitate spraying in late fall or early winter. Many felt that damage was done to their wheat and some complained about a poor weed control. Dean Swan, Pendleton Branch Experiment Station, will discuss the topic, "Should Fall Seeded Wheat be Fall Sprayed?" This meeting should be of interest to everyone! Why don't you reserve the date now and plan to attend.

While we are on the topic of weeds, we might add that further research and demonstration is being carried out in the county with new and promising chemicals. Last week, a rather extensive research plot was established on morning glory at the Don Robinson ranch in Sandhollow, Tordon, a new promising perennial noxious weed killer, is the main chemical to be compared in this plot. This is one of the two plots that I asked for volunteers for an area of 112 by 120 feet patch of morning glory. While we have a lot of morning glory in the county, it was quite difficult to find an area this large. As a result, only one of the standard size plots will be established. Two or three smaller demonstration plots using only a portion of the comparative rates will be established by the time this appears in print. We will discuss these next week.

Also established this past week, was another chemical fallow plot such as was set up last year at the Gar Swanson ranch south of Lone. The plot this year, which will continue research on various rates and kinds of material was established at the Tad Miller ranch, north Lexington. Pre-emergent rates of Atrazine, which looked so good in last year's plot have been applied. Various rates will be applied at various dates during the fall and early spring.

Cattle grubs continue to be one of the most costly insect pests affecting the livestock producers income. Much of the dam-

age to the animals and the resulting loss to the owner is not detected as it occurs. This is because these small larvae cannot be seen as they burrow into the flesh of the animal nor can their migration to the tissue be noticed as they continue along to emerge from the back six to seven months later.

Much progress has been made over the years with insecticides for the control of insects affecting livestock. It has been difficult in the case of cattle grubs to have an effective control before the damage is done. The heel fly lays its eggs quickly on the heels of the cattle where the life cycle of the grub begins. It has been impossible to find the effective way of killing the fly so research has been concentrated on the grub. Old insecticides used such as rotenone, killed the grubs in the back of the cattle after they cut their holes in the hide and their damage had been done.

Within the past few years, systematic insecticides have proven quite successful and are now recommended. These chemicals, when sprayed on or poured down the back of the cattle, beginning anytime now up until November, are very effective on the grub as well as getting good control for cattle lice. Earlier application such as this time of the year is recommended before the heavy coat of air develops, allowing for more efficient penetration of the insecticide to the skin and into the animal. The small larvae form of the grub are also easier to kill at this time. Two commercial products are now available: Ruelene and Co-Ral. Both can be used as a pour-on application which is easy and requires a minimum of handling.

Results, however, for best control of lice has been with spraying. Co-Ral used as a spray for cattle grub control is applied at the rate of 16 pounds of 25% wettable powder to the hundred gallons of spray. Use a high pressure sprayer and be sure that the material penetrates through the hair and gets to the skin. When Ruelene is used in a sprayer, 2 gallons of the 25% emulsifiable concentrate is mixed in a hundred gallons of water. Both of these insecticides can be used as a pour-on treatment. Easy to follow instructions appear on the label, and literature for its use is available for

Deadline Due Soon For GI Dividend

Korean War veterans who hold GI "RS" insurance have only until September 13 to qualify for a special cash dividend by exchanging them for "W" term policies or converting to permanent insurance. Tom J. Keating, Umatilla county veterans' service officer, states.

After September 13, these veterans may still convert or exchange their policies, Keating said, but they will no longer be eligible for the dividend payment.

Only GI insurance policy holders with "RS" insurance that was issued during the period of the Korean War are concerned in this program. On or before September 13, they must:

1. Exchange the "RS" term policy for a "W" term policy, generally costing about one-third of what they are now paying; or
2. Convert the "RS" policy to a low-cost permanent plan of insurance.

Veterans affected are advised to contact Keating at Room 223, Umatilla County court house, Pendleton, Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Glennie and

boys arrived back this week from their summer work and visiting in the Hartow, Mont., area. They are both teachers in the Heppner school system.

Those who are interested in these materials. Follow directions on the label for best results. The manufacturers have spent thousands of dollars in developing these labels and perfecting the proper methods for mixing and applying the chemical to obtain the best results for the greatest safety to both animals and the applicator.

Red Cross Appoints 2-County Consultant

J. W. Pope, chairman, Umatilla county Red Cross chapter, announces that Frank Holmes, National Fund vice chairman for Oregon, has appointed Hadley C. Akins as volunteer fund campaign consultant for Umatilla and Morrow counties.

Akins, who resides at 1225 S. W. Goodwin, Pendleton, with his wife and four children, has lived in Pendleton for the past four

years. He is employed by the United States National Bank of Pendleton as assistant manager and agricultural field man for Umatilla and Morrow counties. Before coming to Pendleton he was vocational agricultural teacher in the Athena school for nine years. Last year he was Umatilla county's United Fund president.

Co-op Corner . . .

By JOE ENGELMAN

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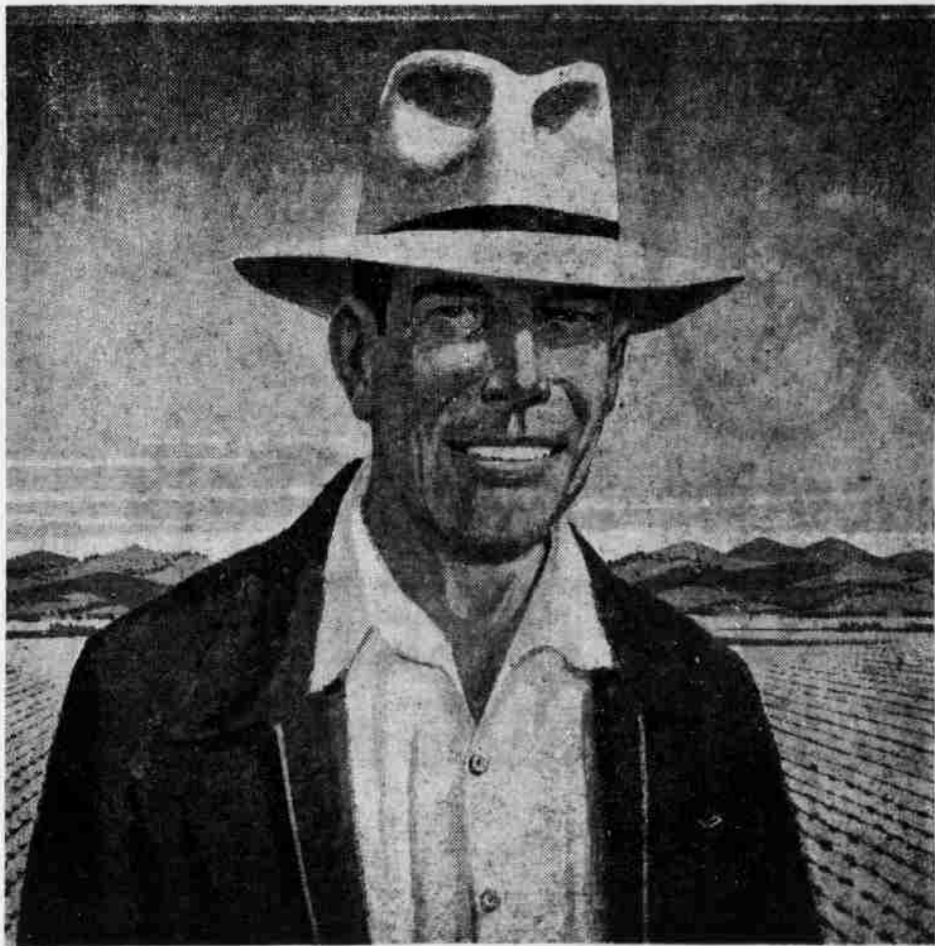
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