

Lamb, Daily Gain, Carcass Profits Linked in Study

The lamb that racks up the highest daily gain from birth to weaning is generally the one that will provide the most valuable retail carcass, according to research at Oregon State University.

Correlation between rate of gain from birth to weaning and the value of trimmed retail cuts was determined by slaughtering 56 lambs by various sires, and processing the carcasses into trimmed retail cuts.

Each of eight Hampshire rams was mated to 16 purebred white-face ewes. The seven heaviest crossbred wether lambs from each of the eight rams were selected for slaughter and carcass cut-out evaluation. Slaughter weight averages 45 1/2 pounds, adjusted to a uniform 150 days of age.

Each carcass was processed into leg of lamb, sirloin chops, rolled lamb shoulder, lamb shanks and lamb stewmeat. All cuts were trimmed to one-fourth inch external fat, with the exception of the seven-rib racks, which were used for cooking and taste-panel tests.

The carcasses with the highest retail value yielded 82-84 percent of their carcasses weight in retail trimmed cuts. Based on carcass weight at 150 days of age, retail return from each sire group of lambs averaged \$26.08, \$24.74, \$23.33, \$23.31, \$23.31, \$23.07, \$22.85, and \$22.29. Daily gain from birth to weaning for the above groups in pounds, in the same order, was 342, 313, 299, 294, 293, 294, 289, 286.

Research was conducted by C. W. Fox, W. H. Kennick, James A. B. McArthur, and B. R. Eller, OSU Animal Science Department.

Production Testing Pays Big Dividends

Gains in average weaning weights of up to 30 pounds per calf in just three years have been reported by Oregon cattlemen who are using production testing to upgrade their cow herds, according to a fact sheet published by Oregon State University.

The fact sheet, "Beef Herd Production Testing," was prepared by John H. Landers, OSU extension animal science specialist.

According to the fact sheet, production is a simple method of obtaining systematic records for selecting and breeding more productive beef cattle. The records can be used to put beef production on a more business like basis with a minimum of cost and effort.

Landers says that production testing will help cattlemen improve the conformation and increase the weight of weaners more rapidly. Required forms and information on production testing can be obtained from county extension agents.

The fact sheet also discusses weighing of cattle, herd testing, use of records, and anticipated results. There is no charge for the production testing service, which is conducted through the OSU Cooperative Extension Service.

Interested cattlemen can obtain the new fact sheet, free of charge, by writing the Bulletin Clerk, Department of Printing, Oregon State University, Corvallis.

National Forests Offer Rangelands For 227,000 Head

The annual trek of cattle and sheep to rangelands on the National Forests of the Pacific Northwest Region is nearing completion, according to J. Herbert Stone, regional forester, U. S. Forest Service.

About 112,000 cattle and 115,000 sheep owned by 1,260 ranchers and stockmen obtain a substantial part of their annual forage requirements in feed under permit from the Region's 20 National Forests and the Crooked River National Grassland.

Most of the livestock is trailed on foot to grazing allotments from nearby home ranches. Some are trucked to grazing areas where trailing is inconvenient. Forest officers count most animals as livestock enters the national forests. Many cattle are tagged or spotted with dye for identification. Management of the livestock on each allotment is planned by the forest ranger in cooperation with the grazing permittee.

National forest rangelands are of significant economic importance to the livestock industry, especially east of the Cascades where range livestock provides a large part of the local income.

In fiscal year 1964, approximately \$45,000 was spent by the Forest Service to maintain and install range improvements and improve the range itself. In addition, grazing permittees contributed \$96,000 in labor and cash deposits toward the improvement program.

File cards and guides, 3x5, 4x6 and 5x8 at the Gazette-Times.

FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

New Grade Standards Tighten Wheat Markets

By N. C. ANDERSON

In a meeting last week with Rex Julian, district supervisor of Federal grain inspection, and Ray Teal, marketing specialist at Oregon State University, they informed Columbia Basin county agents that the grain trade is very concerned with holding grades under the new standards which went into effect June 1.

Julian told the group there hasn't been a cargo of grain out of Portland since June 1 which would grade number 1 under the new standards. It has graded No. 2, 3 and 4, which is unusual for Northwest wheat.

Most concern is shown in holding the cash wheat sales developed over the years with Japan. Japan is the largest cash sale buyer in our foreign market which amounts to about 65% of the total disposal of Northwest wheat.

Regulations at present in Japan say that they must buy No. 1 grade. Predictions by these men were that wheat growers, country elevator operators, terminal operators and exporters will all be affected more than is now realized as these new grade standards are used as the new crop is harvested.

The new standards, adopted by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture as a result of recommendations by some organizations, were aimed to make United States wheat more competitive in world trade with wheat from other countries. The new standards tighten the tolerances for dockage, provide a limit on total defects and provide for low limits of wheat of contrasting classes.

While there are some differences of opinion, the changes will undoubtedly mean that a greater amount of our Northwest white wheat will be subject to discounts than before.

While concern is being shown here, the National Association of Wheat Growers report in a recent "Report from Washington," the new grain standard results from areas where harvest is well under way. On 720 lots inspected at Enid, Oklahoma, in early June, representing one day's inspected receipts, 37.16% of the wheat graded No. 1; 1.1% graded No. 2, and 1.3% graded below 2. The report indicated this 1.3% was all old wheat and was down-graded because of damaged kernels and total defects.

The report further indicated that 97% of the wheat had less than 0.5% dockage which means no dockage to the farmer under the new grain standards. Tests on 1,067 cars of new wheat arriving at terminal markets from southern Kansas counties indicated that 96% of the total has dockage of less than 5%. Total defects, including damaged kernels, foreign materials, and shrunken and broken kernels, average 1.6%, well below the allowable 3% for No. 1 wheat under the new standards.

Regardless of conflicting reports, our wheat growers can do several things yet this year that will assist them in holding grades which are real important if the maximum price will be received for the 1964 crop. These items are:

- (1) Compare 1963 and 1964 grades so that you will have an understanding of what constitutes the new grades. We have copies of the standards here at the office for you in case that you have lost the last issue of "The Wheat Field," which contained these important changes.
- (2) Be particular with your combine adjustments so that there will be a minimum of cracked kernels.
- (3) If you cannot get your combine to keep from cracking or if there are a lot of shrunken kernels which is possible this year, cleaning prior to market might be profitable. Shrunken and broken kernels cannot exceed 3% if you are to maintain a No. 1 grade.
- (4) It may be to your advantage to bin fields separate this year if you are storing wheat on the farm. Dockage or contrasting classes in one field may change the whole lot. Contrasting classes might arise where some reseeded was done or a field sowed to two different varieties.
- (5) Selective harvesting of various parts of the field may help also to solve this problem.
- (6) It will be important to get your own grade for wheat delivered to the elevator this year.
- (7) Insist on complete sampling of delivered wheat.
- (8) In the later areas it may be possible yet to do some roguing of fields for rye, barley, wild oats and volunteer wheat of other varieties.
- (9) The practice started last year in some commercial warehouses where wheat varieties were binned separately is a good practice. Encourage this.
- (10) When you save your seed wheat for the 1965 crop, keep the new standards in mind.

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State Inspection Possible For Spray Drift Damage

Each year there are reports to this office of damage from spray drift or application of an agricultural chemical to the wrong area. We have two such reports this year.

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture reminds those suffering from such damage that if a report is made within 60 days after the damage is noticed prior to the harvest, of more than 50% of the growing crop that they will make an inspection to determine cause. Last year the department received 34 reports of damage from application of agricultural chemicals. Four of these were the result of errors in spraying the wrong field and the remainder from drift.

In case of such damages, the land owner and applicator are both held responsible in the case of damage from agricultural chemicals. When damages are reported to the State Dept. of Agriculture, no charge is made for the investigation if the work was done by a licensed operator. When it has not been done by a licensed operator, the person making the claim must pay the expenses of the investigation.

Use of Feed Additives Shows Good Growth Ratio

Many times we are asked what can be expected in the use of feed additives in the beef feedlot. It was interesting to see recently a summary of 409 college experiments comparing these additives. Both feed additives on the market and those not yet made available to the public were compared.

Of those now on the market, a 10 mg. oral feeding of stilbestrol in the finishing ration gave a 13% gain stimulation and resulted in 10% feed savings with \$11.57 return per dollar invested. 10 mg. oral feeding of stilbestrol in the growing ration gave a 12% gain stimulation, a 10% feed savings, but only \$9.38 return per dollar invested. Stilbestrol fed orally at the 10 mg. level did not result in lower-

Estacada Plans Water Festival

With only 17 days left to go Estacada Water Festival princesses are busy as bees in their race toward the goal of festival queen and the coronation ceremonies Friday night, July 17, at Estacada. Meantime, plans are rapidly approaching fulfillment for one of the largest parade affairs of its kind in the area. The parade will be held through Estacada Saturday morning, July 18, and entries are welcomed in all classes. Standard judging

points will be used in judging the entries.

Most unusual program in the list is the newly added Frog Races to be held Saturday afternoon near the horse show area. Cash prizes will be awarded winners in the frog races and interest is running high at this time as prospective racers capture and train their frogs.

The big thrill for many observers, will be the greatly enlarged sky diving program. These daring men will make several appearances during the day so all may have the opportunity to watch them come to earth at close range. A well rounded out program has been prepared in this thrilling entertainment with divers from all over the Northwest participating in the show.

A horse show program will get underway shortly after the parade has been completed. Entries are already being submitted to assure a show to remember.

Sole event for the final day of the Festival is the running of the Regional Hydroplane Races on North Fork Reservoir, only six miles up the Clatsamas River from Estacada. Here the top Hydro racers of the Northwest will vie for the Electric Cup provided by Portland General Electric Co. and for the array of beautiful trophies provided for the event.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Edwards, Jeff and Kay, returned, Sunday, to their home in Portland after spending three days visiting at the home of Mrs. Edwards' brother, Wayne Harsin, and family. Cindy Harsin accompanied them home to spend at least one week visiting there.



Plans in Progress For Hereford Sale

"The second round of planning meetings for the All-Western Hereford Heifer Sale has been completed, and plans are progressing smoothly," Don Hendricks, chairman of the event announced at Springfield this week.

The sale will be held April 7, 1965, at LaGrande, Oregon, and some 200 open and bred, horned and polled, halter broke heifers are expected to be consigned. The heifers will be sold both individually and in pens. Hereford breeders from all states are invited to consign heifers to this sale.

"Sale facilities at LaGrande are top-notch, and we are expecting an outstanding group of females to be consigned. It will be a sale where buyers will have an opportunity to select replacement females or the nucleus of a foundation herd," Hendricks said.

Breeders will receive cards shortly announcing details of the sale, and should return them as soon as possible with their intended consignments listed. Any breeders who do not receive a card, but wishing to consign females, should contact: Ruth Adams, secretary, Oregon Hereford Association, Box 131, Enterprise, Oregon.

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