

Weekly Market Review

By STEPHEN C. MARKS
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More Beef Cattle Show Up Than Previously Expected

Estimates of the cattle population in Oregon and the United States has been revised upward, but there are still slightly fewer than a year ago. Data from the Census of Agriculture shows that the beef cattle population has decreased more than dairy cattle in Oregon, which is just the reverse of the national trend. The January 1 count in Oregon shows 1,593,000 head, or 4 per cent less than the all time high of 1,659,000 head as of January 1, 1965. Dairy cattle numbers dropped only 1,000 head while there were 32,000 fewer beef cattle. Nationally, the dairy cow population thinned out another 5 per cent while beef cattle numbers rose 1 per cent.

Fewer Sheep, More Hogs

Oregon's sheep population is the smallest since 1872 at 616,000 head, paving the way for a smaller lamb crop than last year. The state also has 17 per cent more hogs than a year earlier—119,000 head. Prices on cattle, hogs and sheep remain relatively unchanged from seasonal lows.

Spud Supply Shrinks

A record 122.7 million sacks of U. S. potatoes have been used up from the time of harvest to February 1. Chippers and fresh market sales were slightly less than a year ago but more were used for processing and shipments of fall potatoes to starch factories were considerably greater.

A record 221 million sacks were harvested in 1966, but stocks remaining at the start of February totaled 98.3 million sacks, 1 per cent less than last year. Somewhat larger stocks in Washington, Oregon and California were offset by lower holdings in Idaho and Colorado, which were down 22 and 7 per cent, respectively.

Oregon Tops Berry Processing Chart

Oregon assumed the lead in the production of processing strawberries in 1966, although California maintained its lead as the nation's top all around strawberry producer. Out of more than 97 million pounds produced in Oregon last year, all but 4 million pounds went to processors, primarily for freezing. California processed 60.5 million pounds.

Oregon's strawberry yields averaged a record 6,700 pounds per acre on 14,500 acres while golden state growers got a 22,800 pound average on 7,800 acres.

Grain Market in Doldrums

There were more sellers than buyers in the Portland grain markets last week and the price of white wheat dropped to a seasonal low of \$1.65 per bushel. Barley sagged to an 18 month low two weeks ago and still remains at the \$49.50 a ton level. Oats, however, are still \$2 a ton more than a year ago.

Columbia Plateau Council Meeting Opens in Spokane

By GENE WINTERS
Morrow County Extension Agent
How the three states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho will utilize their land and water resources will be among the main topics of discussion at the second annual meeting of the Columbia Plateau Resources Council February 23 and 24 in Spokane.

Several members of the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service will join other officials and conservation workers to discuss problems concerning the tri-state area. Joseph Cox, associate director of the OSU Extension Service, will serve on a panel scheduled to discuss "Facts about the Problems of Erosion, Sedimentation and Floods in the Columbia Plateau Area."

Also participating in the program will be Dr. H. B. Cheney, head of the OSU soils department, and county agents, Victor W. Johnson and Darrell Maxwell, of Umatilla County, and Eugene P. Winters, county agent of Morrow County.

Keynote speaker for the two-day conference will be Dr. E. W. Hartung, president of the University of Idaho at Moscow, who will discuss "Resource Issues and Regional Progress." Other program topics will include both Southwest and Northwest water needs and development.

Discussion sessions on the various topics will be held by the council membership, which includes representatives of citizen groups, private organizations, elected officials, public utilities, educational institutions, labor, religious groups, fish and wildlife interests and state and federal agencies concerned with use and conservation of soil and water resources. Objectives of the Council are to provide a forum for exploring common interests and a vehicle for joint action to utilize the area's natural resources while still preserving them.

Farmers Squeezed Tighter

The price rope that ties farmers with prices they get and services they pay for goods and services drew tighter recently as farm purchasing power dropped to the lowest level in more than 20 months.

The index of prices received by the nation's farmers now stands 3 per cent below a year ago. Cotton, wholesale milk and eggs accounted for most of the January decline. Meanwhile, prices farmers pay for goods and services, including interest, taxes and wage rates, rose 1 per cent to a new record high. Farmers now pay 4 per cent more than they did at this time last year.

Prices Lower on Most Farm Products

Producers of farm products in Oregon and around the nation had a good year in 1966, but 1967 started out with mixed trends. Livestock and barley growers aren't doing as well in the market place as they did last winter, but dairymen are earning higher pay for their milk. Potato and onion growers are also faring better.

Farmers closed their January ledgers feeling the cost-price squeeze more than they have in a long time. Prices are lower than a year ago on agricultural commodities like cattle, hogs, lambs, eggs and barley and price tags on things farmers buy to produce food have gone up. Thus, farm product purchasing power has dropped to the lowest level in nearly two years.

In current markets, there are few farm commodities enjoying a buoyant market condition. Favored products are milk and onions. Lower market prices for most commodities this winter were caused by production responses to more favorable prices the previous 18 months or so.

Livestock Markets React To Supply Buildup

In livestock markets, fed cattle prices were trimmed some more the past week as more cattle from the record large feedlot inventories were moved into slaughter plants. There has been some decrease in fed cattle numbers during January but California feedlot operators still have 10 per cent more than last winter and there are 12 per cent more in Arizona and 6 per cent more in Colorado.

The increase in marketings of grain fed cattle and beef output is not the sole factor behind lower cattle prices this winter. Pork, beef's biggest competitor, is being produced in considerably larger volumes than a year ago. Weekly hog marketings this winter have been ranging from 25 to 45 per cent greater than last winter. These are mostly pigs that were born last summer but included also is a larger volume of sows.

Lambs are also being slaughtered in larger numbers this winter. In recent weeks, the kill has been fully a fifth greater than a year earlier. Slaughter livestock weigh more, too this winter. Combining this factor with the increase in marketings, total tonnage of red meat has been running around 15 per cent greater than last winter.

While the abundance of meat is welcomed by consumers, producers are paying dearly by feeding to heavy weights. The heavier an animal becomes, the more expensive it is to put on additional pounds. The rub comes when producers have to take a discount in the market place.

Barley is a Good Feed Buy

Lower priced barley this winter should help cheapen poultry rations. Partly offsetting are higher price tags on wheat, corn and oats and milo. Barley prices are \$7 a ton lower than they were a year ago, although supplies are less plentiful than they were last winter.

Wheat Lacks Demand

Wheat markets continued in the doldrums during the first ten days of February for lack of much new export business and light buyer interest. White wheat prices eased toward the current season's previous low point but still held 5 to 6 cents a bushel above a year ago.

Sizable new export business in white wheat appears evident, however. India has been allocated another 1.2 million tons of wheat. As soon as purchase authorizations are issued, wheat prices are expected to recover at least part of the recent decline.

Items Up

Higher average prices were paid for feeder livestock, motor vehicles, feed and building and fencing materials. The parity ration now stands at 75, some 2 per cent below December and 5 points below January, 1966. This is the highest annual average since 1962. Not since 1952 has the parity ratio reached 100, the point set by Congress as a fair exchange between prices received and prices paid by farmers.

4-H Riders Meet

The third meeting of the South Springs Riding Club was called to order by Gwen Drake on February 14 at the home of Sherry Kemp. Roll call was naming the breeds of horses. Sherry gave a report on the ration of soil and water resources. Objectives of the Council are to provide a forum for exploring common interests and a vehicle for joint action to utilize the area's natural resources while still preserving them.

Farm Safety Meeting Slated February 23-24

Information on farm safety, ranging from noise control to safe handling of agricultural chemicals, will be offered by experts during the fourth annual Governor's Farm Safety Conference February 23 and 24 in Salem.

Ellwood D. Miller, Oregon State University extension farm safety specialist, said the conference will begin Thursday at 8 a.m. in the Marion Motor Hotel. Governor Tom McCall will give the welcome address at 9 a.m.

The first-day program will include demonstrations on fire-arm safety, tractor roll guards, impairment of hearing, and water safety.

Walter Leth, director of the State Department of Agriculture, is scheduled to speak at a luncheon and reports will be given on activities of the Governor's Committee on Farm Safety Division of the National Safety Council.

An agricultural chemical safety short course is scheduled Friday. Joseph Capizzi, OSU extension pesticide safety specialist, said the program will include basic information on food quality and costs, pesticides and public health, and the general nature of the pest problem.

Also on the agenda will be talks on pesticide laws and regulations, pesticide toxicity, protective clothing, prevention of accidents, how to mix chemicals safely, disposal of empty containers, and general do's and don'ts of pesticide safety.

Dormant Sprays Often Overlooked For Pest Control

By GENE WINTERS
Morrow County Extension Agent

One management tool often overlooked by the home gardener is the use of dormant sprays. Spraying during the dormant season has the advantage that stronger rates of materials such as oils and lime-sulfur may be used than on new tender plant tissues. In certain cases a dormant spray is the only practical way to control specific insect pests.

Mites and scale insects are the major groups susceptible to dormant spraying. Many species of aphid can be controlled by killing their overwintering eggs with this type of treatment. Your garden store or feed and seed store has a supply of dormant spray materials on hand. Commercial applicators are available for application jobs requiring larger equipment.

The county extension office has two spray schedules available upon request to help with your home orchard or cane fruit insect or disease problems. Ask for Extension Circular 631 — Spray Schedule for Home Orchards; Extension Circular 609 — Spray Schedule for Disease and Insect of Cane Fruits.

Talk on Water

Recently residents of Morrow County have had two opportunities to learn more about water resource development in the area. Rupert Spearman of the Bureau of Reclamation spoke at the Annual meeting of the Boardman Soil and Water Control about the Umatilla basin project and its impact on the West Extension Irrigation district. At the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation district annual meeting, Donel Lane, executive secretary of the Oregon Water Resource Board, told about the state ultimate water needs study now underway and "which way flows the Columbia."

Next Monday evening, February 27 at 8:00 p.m. in the Ione High school, Robert O'Rourke, Pendleton attorney, will discuss the Northwest-Southwest Water diversion plans and issues. Inter-regional diversion of water in the western half of the United States is perhaps the most important controversial issue of concern to Congress in the management of natural resources. Morrow county has a vital stake in any diversion of Columbia River Water.

Legislators Ask For Fish Study

Three northeastern Oregon legislators have introduced a house joint resolution which would call for an unbiased study of the fish resources of the Columbia River, the effect of commercial, Indian and sports fishing on the resource, and the effectiveness and cost of the management and replenishment of the resource. Senator R. R. Raymond (R), Helix, Rep. Stafford Hansell (R), Hermiston, and Rep. Irvin Mann (R), Stanfield, the sponsors, in a joint statement said they were interested in an objective study by analysts based outside of Oregon to find the "truth" so that the 1969 legislature may have some guidelines it may depend on. The study also calls for appraisal of the economic impact of the various fisheries, and the impact of added tourism if the Columbia River fish resource were enhanced.



JOHN LANDERS, extension livestock specialist from the Oregon State University Extension Service, Corvallis, shows how to bundle and tie a fleece properly. He appeared at a sheep shearing demonstration at the Morrow county fairgrounds last Wednesday. Members of the Heppner High FFA chapter watched the demonstration. Fleece is from a sheep owned by Everett Harshman.

Sheep Shearing Schools Slated; Details Listed

By GAIL L. McCARTY

A repeat performance of one of the most unusual educational opportunities offered by Oregon State University will be staged again this March when students spend two days learning the latest wrinkles in the age-old art of shearing sheep.

Since John Landers, OSU extension animal science specialist, originated the workshop in 1951, more than 700 Oregonians have taken advantage of the opportunity to learn the best method of separating a sheep and its fleece.

Most of the previous participants have been owners of small farm flocks, who either cannot find a shearer willing to do the job or wish to save money on the operation.

Those enrolling in previous sessions have ranged from FFA members of 16 years old - do members of 16 years old to their grandfathers of 60.

The two campus sessions will be held March 13 and 14; and March 15 and 16. Each school is limited to 16 students. The classes are open to anyone interested in learning to shear sheep, but students must be 16 years old and weigh at least 140 pounds.

Application forms are available from the county extension office. All applications must be turned in before March 1. A \$2 registration fee is charged. All equipment is furnished by the OSU Cooperative Extension Service.

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Karen Gresham Scores Hit Here With IFYE Talks

By MARJORIE WILCOXEN

Karen Gresham, who was a guest of Morrow County Extension Service last week, scored a big hit with all those who were fortunate to hear her talk about her experiences during her six-month stay with farm families living in Colombia, South America, as an International Farm Youth Exchange.

She stayed in the cattle country on one farm whose owner raised bulls to supply animals for the village bull fights, one of the national sports. (Soccer and bicycle racing are two others).

Another farm was in a mountain valley so rich that almost any fruit or vegetable will grow there. She could have fresh pineapple by going out in the yard and picking it. Other fruits were bananas, oranges, papayas. This area is tropical although it is several thousand feet elevation.

Karen said she expected the food to be like many other Latin American countries—hot and spicy. It was exactly the opposite: very bland, most of the people didn't even use black pepper and sometimes little salt.

She visited coffee plantations, grape vineyards, sugar mills, and department stores. Bogota, the capital, the largest metropolitan city, with an elevation of 8,400 feet, is called the Athens of the West.

She had many wonderful experiences in her visit to our "neighbor to the South," too numerous to tell about in a short space. Her enthusiasm about the trip and the people she learned to know and understand seems to spread to all who hear her.

Copies of the letters she sent to the 4-H office for informational purposes telling about her stay in different areas, are available to anyone interested in learning more about Colombia.

If Karen Gresham is an example of the IFYE delegates who each year visit in different countries, the program is sure to be a greater success in promoting understanding among the farming peoples of the world.

ANNOUNCEMENT

"Tricks and Treats of Tailoring" lecture, demonstration meeting by Home Agent Marjorie Wilcoxen, will be Tuesday, February 28, in the Dorm building at the Fairgrounds from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Everyone interested is cordially invited. Bring your friends.

P
Keeping costs down on the farm
More than thirty years ago, Pacific Supply Cooperative was founded out of necessity. Stated purpose was "to provide unity of effort in buying."
In those depression days, Northwest farmers were "manufacturers" of food and fiber but, as individuals, they lacked the buying muscle any industrial manufacturer had to have to survive.
Pacific Supply gives over 100,000 Northwest growers the combined purchasing power needed to keep the cost of production supplies down on the farm, at levels reasonable enough to make a profit and stay in business.
The seed of Pacific's original objective has grown in purpose, cultivated and fertilized by these policies—all aimed at serving the expanding needs of Northwest farmers:
WITH HONEST PRICING insuring the same fair price to any buyer of the same quantity and service, retaining a reasonable profit for Pacific cooperatives to expand future services to farmers.
WITH HIGHEST LEVEL OF SERVICE, both routine and emergency, to give Northwest farmers the kind of technical assistance and grow-how only a farmer-dedicated business like Pacific can provide.
WITH TIMELY AVAILABILITY of refined fuels, chemicals and fertilizer products delivered to Northwest farmers when and where they need them.
WITH ASSURED QUALITY of every product that bears the Circle P emblem, the sure sign for farmers.
WITH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH to help Northwest farmers meet tomorrow's demands for technological advances in agricultural production.
WITH CREDIT AND MANAGEMENT SERVICE for farmers and associations to help Northwest growers succeed as agri-businessmen. As we better serve the needs of Northwest agriculture, we better serve all mankind.
"We believe that the agricultural industry, which can be victimized by nature, should not be plagued by problems over which man has a degree of control — namely service, price and availability of necessary supplies."
PACIFIC SUPPLY COOPERATIVES
for farmers
LEXINGTON OIL CO-OP

4-H Foresters Meet

The 4-H Green Foresters met at 7:00 p.m., February 15. We saw a movie about "Everyman's Empire". Five members were present: Jeff Marshall, Joe Anderson, David Winters, Tommy Wolff, Tommy Alsop. We had one visitor, Gail McCarty. Tom Wolff gave a report on Ponderosa pine. It was a good report. Tommy Alsop, reporter

Warnings Issued On Highly Toxic Nature of 1080

Warnings on the hazards of using the rodenticide sodium fluoracetate, also known as Compound "1080" have been sent by the Oregon Department of Agriculture to pest control operators and others in the state who might use this highly toxic pesticide.

The communication from Tom Harrison, the department's chemical applicator supervisor, points out that use of open cups of water solution baiting of the Compound "1080" are hazardous from the spillage aspect where food, including animal feeds, are stored.

It also reminds that food near which this is used may be considered adulterated and placed under seizure.

Harrison lists seven rules that should be followed by those using "1080". These are:

1. Disperse only in protected bait stations firmly attached to building or otherwise secured against being overturned and keep bait stations locked with written records maintained regarding servicing operations.
2. See that all persons in the building serviced, particularly the owner or manager in charge, are fully aware "1080" is being used and fully informed of its highly toxic nature and the necessity of protecting stored foods from contamination.
3. Construct bait station so as to provide adequate and secure containment. Use leak-proof receptacle for liquid and rest on absorbent material to prevent spread of spillage.
4. Color water solution of Compound "1080" with 0.5 per cent Nigrosine black dye.
5. Collect and burn or bury all dead rodents to avoid secondary poisoning.
6. Place "poison" warning on all bait stations.
7. Never place open cups containing Compound "1080" on or near stored food products.

Harrison also warned that failure to follow the precautionary procedures in the use of the pesticide could place the operator's license in jeopardy.