

Reports on Livestock Scheduled by Planning Council

Those attending the Jackson county planning council meeting in the courthouse auditorium today were to hear reports and recommendations from committees on dairy, beef cattle, poultry, sheep, swine and miscellaneous livestock.

The committees have been studying these phases of agriculture in the county since October.

The dairy committee stated in its report that surplus milk and other manufacturing of milk is the most serious problem of the industry. Suggested solutions include requiring that all milk meet sanitary requirements for Grade A, which would necessitate changes in sanitary laws to some degree.

Another plan would call for minimum requirements for buildings and equipment, but would place more emphasis on bacteria count, sediment and temperature of the milk as it arrives at the market. This plan would put more emphasis on care and sanitation in production than on buildings and equipment.

Members of the committee recommended that producers and distributors work together to educate consumers to advantages of using locally produced milk. The committee has concluded that the quota system as used on local markets is the best method now known and recommends that it be continued.

It was also recommended that the dairy industry consider means of increasing the price of factory milk to the producer and that producers consider the possibility of export markets. Another suggestion was that the Oregon and California departments of agriculture standardize requirements for producing Grade A milk.

The committee recommended that a dairy include at least one acre of good irrigated pasture for each cow kept and that the bunker type self feeding silos be used. It was also recommended that the minimum herd size for a one man operation be set at 40 cows. On larger operations using a pipeline milker, the committee suggests a 100 cow herd as a day's work for one milker.

Committee members favored each dairyman removing from his herd all cows not producing enough to be profitable rather than have the federal government purchase surplus dairy products to help stabilize prices. The committee, recognizing mastitis and brucellosis as major cow diseases in this area, recommended use of control methods advocated by local veterinarians. It was also recommended that in the interest of general economy, the county court make its weed spraying equipment and manpower available at cost or less to cattlemen who cooperate by organizing their neighbors so a solid block of cattle can be sprayed on the same day and by furnishing the Rotenone for spraying their own cattle.

Sanitary Production
To the state department of agriculture, the committee recommends a review of laws pertaining to sanitary production of milk with two aims in mind. The first aim would be to reduce as much as practical requirements of buildings and equipments and in its place, put more stress on milk arriving at the market low in bacteria, sediment and temperature. The second would be to make Oregon laws more uniform with those of California. The committee also urges the department to strictly enforce laws pertaining to illegal sales of milk.

The beef cattle committee recommended that more purebred herds of beef cattle be developed in Jackson county with reservations and cautions as to quality and breeding standards. Closer relationships between the purebred breeder and the range or commercial cattle operator was also recommended.

Testing and vaccination were listed as among the most important disease controls. A community spray project was suggested as the most feasible solution to the heel-fly problem.

Culling Considered
The committee recommended the following considerations in culling: type, milking qualities, age, breeding kind of cow produced, thriftiness and slow, late or non-breeders.

For range management improvement, the committee made 10 recommendations, including rotated or controlled grazing, reseeded to an adapted forage grass all disturbed areas immediately following logging, slash burn or skid roads and landing yards, encourage and cooperate with government agencies in reseeded lands, exploration of economic methods of brush destruction and reseeded techniques on private lands, and utilize to the fullest extent commodity credit corporation surplus forage crop seeds.

The committee recommended that a program of brush and non-edible weed control be encouraged by using controlled burning, mechanical brush removal and brush killing chemicals in spray applications. Committee members acknowledged that marketing is the main problem of the livestock industry. Therefore, it was recom-

mended that consignment be discouraged since consignment selling of live cattle for slaughter eliminates bargaining power of the producer and when enlarged in scope will tend to destroy competitive buying. Good marketing methods applied to all classes of cattle is of importance to all producers of cattle, it was stated.

Four Problems
The committee on sheep, swine and miscellaneous livestock noted four problems facing sheep producers: marketing, parasites and disease, predators and dogs and buying quality feeders.

It was recommended that farmers with sheep pay more attention to marketing wool in the best condition, consistent with his operation. The committee does not recommend feeding lambs to high choice or prime when it is necessary to purchase grain and other concentrates to accomplish this.

It was recommended that wherever possible, shipments be pooled to make a truckload and that when practical the load be made up of lambs which are uniform in size and finish.

It was suggested that more effort be expended to encourage local meat markets to feature lamb in their retail sales. Committee members said more sheep could be profitably raised in Jackson county and these should be mostly small farm flocks primarily aimed at utilizing feed which might otherwise be wasted or marketed inefficiently.

One method of increasing the number of sheep in the county would be to make breeding stock available for 4-H and FFA projects, the committee said. Possibility of one of the large packing companies establishing a slaughter house either in Jackson or Klamath county was also discussed.

Sheep Diseases
Stomach worms, liver fluke and white muscle were discussed as major sheep diseases and several suggestions were made for avoiding these diseases. Coyotes were noted as a serious problem in many areas of the county and the committee recommended raising bounty from \$5 to \$10. If this cannot be done, the committee recommends removing the bounty entirely and using the money to hire more professional trappers. Committee members commended the dog control committee and the present dog control officer for efficient and prompt methods used in dealing with dog problems.

Marketing, high feed costs and disease and parasites were listed as important problems related to swine raising. The committee acknowledged that prices for fat hogs in the Medford area average three cents per pound under prices for the same quality hogs in Portland.

High feed costs make it desirable to obtain a source of low cost feed, the committee stated. Cooked garbage, bakery waste and dried pears were suggested as low cost feed sources. A good vaccination program and careful sanitation were recommended to keep the disease problem at a minimum.

The committee recommended that growing of goats be largely confined to use in clearing brush and cautioned against fur farming as a hazardous occupation because of current low prices for pelts as opposed to high costs of feeds and labor. The committee emphasized that those considering investing money in fur animals such as chinchilla and nutria investigate the markets for fur of this type and get information from a disinterested party.

Poultry committee members stated that because Oregon is rapidly approaching the time when it will produce more eggs than it will consume, the profit margin per hen will lessen in proportion to the surplus supply. **Could Make Success**

They noted, however, there is still an opportunity for an experienced poultryman, soundly financed, to make a success of a commercial egg farm, but the future does not appear too good.

Concerning broilers, the committee said a sideline venture with retail sales may add to a family income, but probably only will net a low return per hour of labor. With regard to hatching egg flocks, the committee said there is little opportunity for an increase in hatching egg flocks in the county at the present time.

Members noted, however, that profits can still be obtained with a light breed hatching egg flock provided a hatchery contract can be obtained. The committee named expansion of turkey breeder hens as the "one bright spot" in local poultry conditions. The needed investment is high, they said, but financing is available for experienced operators with good credit ratings.

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