

Farm and Garden



Cattle Driven to Mountain Ranges By Many Ranchers

Most of the snow in the mountain country surrounding the Rogue River valley is gone by this time of year, and the meadow grasses and foliage of the woodland plants are lush and green.

To valley ranchers, who make use of government grazing lands, this means it is time to get their cattle together for the drive to the summer range in the mountains.

Bill Bigham, of Eagle Point, is one of these ranchers. Last week found Bigham, along with six other "cowhands" on the trail to the Innaha area, east of Prospect, with some 200 head of cattle. Some were his and some belonged to Maury Pingle of Mil-Mar ranch north of Butte Falls. Distance magnified.

Although 40 or 50 miles is not far by car these days, the distance is magnified when following a slow-moving herd of cattle.

Cattle move at the rate of two to three miles an hour, the way Bigham likes to drive them, and the trip from Eagle Point to Innaha takes about two and a half days.

When on the trail the cattle like to get on the move at day-break, which means the riders must get going too — without breakfast. The breakfast stop comes about 9 a.m. when the cattle and horses are allowed to graze and the "hands" satisfy appetites with hotcakes, bacon and eggs and coffee. Long hours in the saddle and the mountain air help to make appetites keen.

Prepared on Campfire
Meals on the trail are prepared cowboy fashion over a campfire. When they travel along a road a pickup, which serves as a "chuck wagon," tags along behind, carrying food, water and other supplies, but a good part of the way they follow a trail through the woods and the food is carried on horseback. The evening meal is likely to consist of steak, potatoes and coffee.

Chief cook for the Bigham outfit for the last six years has been Bigham's uncle, Otis Hedge, who is 79 years old. It takes a lot of whooping and shouting on the part of the cowhands to get a herd of cattle from one place to another, and that noise, combined with the howling of the cattle, can be heard for miles in the normally quiet forest.

Once in a while a calf will wander away from the herd and get lost in the woods, or simply hide in the bushes, and it is necessary for the riders to keep a sharp eye out for the strays.

Weight Off Cattle
Bigham claims that by driving them slowly, hardly any weight is taken off the cattle in the 40 mile drive, and it is also much easier on the riders. In addition, the chances of losing a cow in the woods is lessened if they let the "critters" set their own pace. And Bigham ought to know, for this is the 20th year that he has driven his cattle to this summer range.

While on summer range many of the cows will produce calves which may increase the herd by one-third. The calving is taken care of entirely by nature and the wary mother cow watches over its offspring to protect it against coyotes and other predators. It isn't long though before the calf is a frisky self-sufficient veteran of the woods.

Bigham also said cattle that range in the high mountains are less prone to disease and infestations, such as liver fluke, than cattle that feed in planted pastures. Their chief food consists of leaves of the vine maple, wild hickory and other foliage, as well as mountain bunch grass.

The cattle thrive on the mountain browse and they put on



CATTLE DRIVE—Although a Texan might not be impressed with a Rogue Valley cattle drive, taking herds of beef cattle to the summer range in the Cascades is an important event for many local ranchers. The top picture shows the "tail end" of a herd of some 200 cattle belonging to ranchers Bill Bigham and Maury Pingle as they are being herded along a mountain road on their way to Innaha summer range north of Butte Falls. Bigham has brought cattle to this same area every summer for 20 years. The two "buckaroos" in the lower picture are Ricky and Ronnie Anderson, age 11 and 13, who are experts at rounding up a stray in heavy brush. The boys are Bigham's grandchildren.

New Chemical Gives Corn Weed Control

Corvallis — Near-perfect control of annual weeds in corn is shaping up at Oregon State college with a chemical weed killer developed in Switzerland and tentatively scheduled for commercial sale in this country next year.

Sold in Europe under the name "Simazin," it is used there as a soil sterilant when applied at high rates. W. R. Furtick and Dave Chilcote, OSC agronomists, tested low rates of Simazin last year and found it gave almost 100 per cent control of annual weeds in corn throughout the growing season.

Early Reports
Trials this year were expanded to all major corn-producing areas of Oregon. Early reports from throughout the state indicated that treated stands of four to six weeks-old corn are virtually free of weeds with no damage to corn. Simazin was applied just before corn emerged.

Two pounds of Simazin, as it will be sold commercially, gave weed control on an acre of corn with full coverage or three acre when applied in bands along the corn rows. One pound of the commercial product as expected

enough weight to make it well worth the trouble of taking them up there. About Oct. 15, the job of rounding up the cattle begins and they will be driven back to pastures in the valley for the winter.

According to Bigham, at roundup time last year two of his older cows were missing and they had to bring the herd down without them. A few days later the two cows, who had made the trip many times before, showed up at Bigham's ranch.

There are a number of ranchers in the valley who lease government lands, both in the Cascades and the Siskiyou mountains, for grazing their cattle. It is a valuable supplement to feed production in the valley, which would otherwise go to waste. And although the work involved is strenuous, most of the ranchers, like Bill Bigham, look forward to the traditional cattle drives and the chance to "rough it" in real cowboy style.

Livestock Disease Control Legislation Effective on July 1

County Agent W. B. Tucker today reminded dairymen and ranchers that the act governing eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and paratuberculosis in livestock becomes law on July 1. The emergency act was passed at the last session of the Oregon legislature, and \$381,856 has been appropriated to the department of agriculture for enforcement of the law in the next biennium.

Slaughter Required
The new measure calls for slaughter of each reactor animal if it is found to be infected with brucellosis, tuberculosis or paratuberculosis by a test approved by the department of agriculture. The owner of an animal required to be slaughtered and who has complied with all regulations of the department may be paid an indemnity.

Swine Growers Set Regulations For 'Meaty' Stock
Modern hogs must watch their weight. Overly fat pork is being shunned by American housewives and swine growers are making good progress toward producing a meatier type of hog.

The various purebred swine associations have set up rules and regulations to identify meat-type breeding stock within their breeds. The object of the program is to find lines of breeding stock which are producing pigs of acceptable meat-type at desirable weights. When such breeding stock is located, it will be certified and the offspring made available for purchase by breeders as well as commercial producers.

The registry associations have adopted a uniform set of rules and regulations for certification:

1. Only purebred litters are accepted.
2. There must be eight or more pigs saved in a litter and each litter must be ear-marked and farrowing date witnessed, within four days.
3. The litter must be weighed at approximately eight weeks of age (50 to 60 days). This will be adjusted to 56-day weight.
4. Pigs must weigh on an average of 200 pounds or more at 180 days of age. Two pounds per day will be added or deducted to arrive at 180-day weights.
5. Two pigs, either barrows or gilts, will be slaughtered from each litter when they reach 200 pounds or more, provided they weighed 200 pounds before or at 180 days.

Standards Reported
Both a fore-mentioned hogs slaughtered must meet the following standards to certify the rest of the litter:

Weight	Fatback Thickness
180-199	1.1 to 1.5
200-214	1.2 to 1.6
215-230	1.3 to 1.7

Area Sq. In. Length (min.)

3.5	28
3.75	28.5
4.00	29

If a purebred litter meets the above standards, they will be given a meat hog certification. Subsequent litters

All subsequent litters out of the same sow and by the same boar will be designated as "certified meat-type matings" without any more official testing.

A boar that sires five "certified litters," not more than two of which may be from litter-mates or a dam-daughter combination, will also be recognized as a "certified meat-type sire."

Specialist Talks To Pear Shippers
Dr. McSwan, plant pathology specialist from Oregon State college, was guest speaker at the noon meeting of the Medford Pear Shippers association Wednesday at the Rogue Valley Country club.

Dr. McSwan reported on the study being made by the college to isolate the types of decay found in pears from this area. The study was conducted this spring, in co-operation with six pear packing houses in the Medford district.

Some of the most prevalent types of decay isolated in laboratory tests included cladosporium, perennial canker, blue mold and grey mold. Cladosporium is one of the stronger parasites which is found in many other fruits and vegetables.

The project will be expanded this year, in co-operation with the Medford Pear Shippers association, to include study of control measures necessary to prevent decay in storage, as well as trying to determine the cause of the various decays so that they may be controlled at the source.

Dr. McSwan was introduced by Raymond Reter.

Ag Engineering Devices Assist Farming Advances

Corvallis—To produce an acre of wheat in America, it once required 37.7 man hours of labor. Today with mechanization, it takes 1.8.

These and other striking facts about accomplishments of agricultural engineering have been outlined by Oregon State college as part of the 50th year observance of professional agricultural engineering in this country.

Equipment Value
J. B. Rodgers, head of agricultural engineering at the college, says the value of farm equipment on American farms is more than \$18 billion, five times the total investment in the automotive industry. And today, the modern farmer has at his disposal about 36 mechanical or electrical horsepower per worker to help him do chores.

The demand for trained graduates in agricultural engineering is constantly increasing, Rodgers reported. Some 1000 agricultural engineers are needed each year but only about 300 college graduates are available each June.

OSC is one of 25 U.S. colleges nationally accredited in agricultural engineering with work offered on both the bachelor's and master's degree levels.

Output Increased
Agricultural engineering has all but eliminated many of the common drudgeries and hand operations in some areas of farming, such as cotton picking and sugar beet harvesting, Rodgers explained. The farm output per man-hour in forage handling has been increased more than 85 per cent since 1940 with machines.

Rural electrification has brought electricity and conveniences to almost 95 per cent of the U. S. farm homes; irrigation and drainage advances have brought vast areas of land into production with mechanization. One man today can handle 40,000 boilers, while 10 years ago he could handle only 10,000; and beef cattle feeding labor requirements have been cut to a fraction of what they were earlier.

Less than 13 per cent of the population of the U. S. now produces all the food and fiber needed by this country, Rodgers pointed out. In 1857, before the era of agricultural engineering, it required about 85 per cent of the people to do the job.

Tupper Lake, N.Y.—Otter and beaver trappers are \$4,600 richer thanks to a heavy pelts harvest this spring. Game protector Clarence Savard reported 36 trappers brought in 317 beaver pelts and seven otters for tagging.

Low Cost Roughage Shows Well in Cattle Feed Testing

Corvallis—Attempts by Oregon cattlemen to balance increased Northwest feed grain supplies with low-cost roughages have brought promising results in Umatilla county where yearling steers and weaner calves are making economical gains on by-product peavine silage.

David C. England, Oregon State college animal husbandman, headed up the research project in cooperation with local ranchers and Norton Taylor, Umatilla county agent. Other areas of Oregon have expressed interest in similar trials to test feed value of locally produced by-product roughages such as mint silage, cannery waste, and cull vegetables.

Test Results
The Umatilla tests, under way since last fall, showed that peavine silage, as the only roughage, or in combination with alfalfa hay, was satisfactory for fattening steers and calves on moderate grain feeding. Animals also

received stilbestrol hormone treatment. Steer gains cost about one cent a pound less with silage as the only roughage compared to a combination of silage and alfalfa hay, England reported, although the animals made slightly faster gains on the combination roughage. The ration also contained 7½ pounds of grain, mostly barley.

Slower Gains
Steers that received wheat straw and chaff and grass straw along with silage gained slower and at higher cost per pound of gain than did animals on straight silage or the silage-hay combination.

Another key finding of the trials was that gains were increased equally well with stilbestrol implants or with the comparatively new Synovex hormone given at the start of the feeding program. Synovex is a combination of two "natural" hormones while stilbestrol is a chemical with hormonal effects. Synovex costs several times as much per dose as stilbestrol.

Steers treated with stilbestrol averaged daily gains of 1.96 pounds compared to 1.98 for Synovex. Untreated steers gained 1.87 pounds daily. England said the one-tenth pound increase between treated and untreated animals was smaller than normally obtained from stilbestrol. Other on-farm trials during the past year under a wide range of feeding conditions gave two-tenths to four-tenths a pound higher daily gains from stilbestrol treatment.

Increasing interest in fattening weaner calves with low-cost feeds also received a boost from the research project. Weaner calves made cheapest and fastest gains when started at low levels of concentrate as a percentage of body weight and increased percentage-wise through the feeding period. Costs per pound of gain went higher when calves were maintained at any given percentage of body weight throughout the trial.

Greek Government Orders Talent Seed
A tentative order for 60 metric tons of Talent alfalfa seed has been received by the Josephine Growers' association from the Greek government, according to Wallace Rice, manager of the association.

Talent alfalfa seed has been sold to Greece by the association for the past several years. Seed for export must meet rigid regulations, it was pointed out. It must be certified or registered grade, must have a germination of at least 90 per cent and must be free of weed seeds, according to Earle Jossy, county agriculture agent.

Feed costs per pound of gain were highest and daily gains lowest when grain rations were held down to one-half per cent of body weight throughout the feeding trial. Calves responded well to stilbestrol implants on both the high and low concentrate levels.

Fit your fertilizer to your soil and crop

This is what county agents, extension specialists, and other agricultural authorities are consistently telling Western growers: **no one fertilizer is right for all soils and crops.** It makes sense, because the many factors affecting crop growth vary from farm to farm. So, each different combination of growth factors can point to a different fertilizer — to one that is right for that particular farm. Shell Chemical's line of high-analysis fertilizers is designed to fit Western needs—for direct application, or as included in locally formulated mixes.

These fertilizers are backed by Shell Chemical's quarter-century of unmatched research and manufacturing experience in the West—and by their field-tested performance. They will help you to better profits at harvest time.



SHELL DI-AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE—21% nitrogen, 53% available phosphate. Water-soluble, free-flowing. Resists leaching. Readily available nitrogen and phosphate, contains 34 pounds of nutrients in each 100 pounds.



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SHELL AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE SULPHATE (16-20-0)—16% nitrogen, 20% available phosphate, 14% sulphur. Free-flowing, readily available form of nitrogen and phosphate. Helps overcome sulphur deficiencies. Resists leaching.



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