

Farm and Garden

Pasture Efficiency Tips Given By Extension Agent

By EARLE JOSSY
Jackson County Extension Agent

Pasture efficiency is measured in pounds of meat or milk per acre. Anything that

FARM NOTES

Washington - (UPI) - About 5,742,000 needy Americans were receiving free surplus government foods through direct distribution by state and local welfare authorities as of April 1.

Washington - (UPI) - A house agriculture subcommittee continued hearings today on a bill to set up a new country life commission to study the American family farm and rural community.

Washington - (UPI) - Emergency moves to bolster poultry and egg prices were under study today by the agriculture department.

Department officials were asked to make the study on Wednesday during a conference with members of a house poultry subcommittee.

Washington - (UPI) - Elementary and public schools have become an important market for farm food products. The market has become so large that agriculture department marketing researchers have started studying school feeding.

Public schools in the 1957-58 school year spent 505 million dollars on food. Another 92 million dollars worth of food was donated to the schools by the federal government. Nearly all the food donated went to schools operating under the national school lunch program.

Washington - (UPI) - The Agriculture Department's purchases of dried whole egg solids this week matched those of a week ago despite pleas of poultry industry representatives for a substantial increase in the buying program.

Poultry and egg representatives told Congress and the department last week the industry was "worse than sick—it is in a disastrous situation." They urged stepped-up government purchases of dried eggs, purchases of shell eggs, purchases of whole fowl for the school lunch program, and purchases of about 15 million laying hens to help reduce the egg supply.

Washington - (UPI) - The agriculture department said today cattlemen appear to be heading into a build-up in herds that could lead to a price collapse in the early 1960s.

The department said cattle numbers last Jan. 1 equalled the all-time high. The slaughter rate this year indicates a build-up of four to five million more cattle on farms and ranches during 1959.

Washington - (UPI) - The agriculture department's monthly crop report indicates 1959 crops may be good by most ordinary standards—but not up to last year's amazing records.

The winter wheat crop now is estimated at 956,814,000 bushels, down about 10 million bushels from last month's estimate but down about 225 million bushels from last year's crop.

Washington - (UPI) - Sen. Milton R. Young (R-N.D.) said yesterday he is losing hope for passage of any wheat legislation in 1959.

Young, leader in Senate efforts to write a stop-gap wheat bill, said that if there is no action this year, the size of the wheat surplus may force Congress to kill the wheat program.

Such a step would drop supports for wheat, just as Congress once wiped out supports for potatoes. Other concern is the wheat program collapses, it will be hard to keep strong support programs for other major crops.

Washington - (UPI) - Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson has called spokesmen for farmers and food merchants to a May 18 conference here to study plans for stepping up egg sales to consumers.

He said prices have sagged and farmers face a "critical marketing situation." Benson's invitation went out in telegrams Tuesday to officials of 34 farm and food industry groups. Egg prices, under pressure of heavy supplies, have dropped to the lowest level in 18 years.

can be done to increase production enlarges the farm operation and, provided it doesn't cost too much, puts more money in the bank.

Eugene University, N. J., reports that in three adjoining states grazing animals waste 20 per cent to 25 per cent of their forage.

In Minnesota, one group of daily rotation basis produced 1,525 pounds of milk per acre of pasture. Another group on green chop produced 2,538 pounds of milk per acre of green chop. In a similar trial at Rhode Island cows on daily rotation pasture produced 2,585 pounds of milk and those on green chop 3,156 pounds. These cows were selected at random and fed grain on an equal basis.

California beef cattle produced 417 pounds of beef when rotation grazed, 580 pounds per acre on a daily rotation, and 704 pounds per acre when fed green chop. This is a 69 per cent increase in production from rotation grazing to green chop.

The above results can be expected when forage is of the tall growing type; oats, alfalfa, sudan grass. Trials in Minnesota show little difference where short growing crops such as Ladino Clover were used.

Advantages, Disadvantages

Advantages of green chop are:

1. Greater utilization with less waste than with either rotation or continuous grazing.

2. Forage plants all reach optimum production, resulting in more milk or meat per acre than with any type of grazing.

3. Losses of forage from trampling or spoilage due to droppings are avoided.

4. Green chop enables the farmer to use that variety or

4. Green chop enables the best on his land. Sometimes this cannot be done with grazing.

5. Less energy is expended by the animals in obtaining feed.

6. Fencing may be eliminated or at least greatly reduced, allowing larger fields and more efficient farming operations.

7. Damage through compaction of soil is reduced.

8. Fluctuations in daily production of milk, common in grazing herds, is mostly eliminated.

Disadvantages are:

1. Additional equipment costs are necessary.

2. More labor is used. Labor and equipment requirements together for green chop are about triple those for grazing.

3. Hay or silage, or both, must be available at all times in case of mechanical breakdown.

4. Wet fields may make cutting and hauling difficult.

5. It is usually impracticable, unless a man is feeding 35 head or more.

6. Sanitation problems are increased when the livestock are kept in dry lots.

Management Problems Listed

Some management problems are listed:

1. Livestock usually consume more green feed when it is fed twice a day than

when it is fed only once. However, this would make extra labor.

2. Heating reduces the palatability of green chopped feed. This is especially serious in real warm weather.

3. Fields used for green chop must be kept free of vegetation that causes off-flavors in milk. When the animals are grazed, they tend to avoid such weeds.

4. It is difficult to keep the forage at the most desirable stage without cutting some for hay or silage. This is serious because growth is greater in the early spring than it is later on.

5. It may be necessary to have some additional crops, such as sudangrass for use in mid-summer.

6. There is usually less bloat in the case of green chopping than in the case of pasturing, but chopping alone is not the final answer to the bloat question.

So, it boils down to about this: the farm operator must weigh his conditions, his costs and returns, and make up his own mind whether or not to turn his cows out in one big field, rotate pastures, strip graze on a daily basis, or green chop. There is no best way for everybody.

Breeders Attend Jersey Sale

Four Rogue Valley Jersey breeders attended the 1959 western regional Jersey sale held in Boise, Idaho, Wednesday, May 6.

J. E. Parsons of Gold Hill, Frank Silva, Frank Hopewell and W. D. Mongold, all of Eagle Point, flew by chartered plane to attend the sale which is sponsored annually by the Western Association of Jersey Cattle Clubs of the eleven western states.

It was a highly successful sale with the top animal selling for \$3,200. Nine head sold for over \$1,000 making the 40 animals consigned average \$928. This sale was considered the highest average of any regional sale in Jersey history.

W. D. Mongold consigned an animal which was purchased for \$1,000 by Earl McPherson, a prominent Jersey breeder of Enumclaw, Wash.

The cow, LaPine Standard Style, classified excellent. She was bred at LaPine Jersey farm as was her sire and dam. Mr. Parsons was winning bidder on Pomposus Queen Susie an "excellent" cow consigned by Paramount dairy of Farmington, Utah.

The sale was preceded by a show on May 5 and a banquet that evening.

Peach Leaf Curl Control Reviewed

Many back yard peach growers are inquiring as to what may be done to control the peach leaf curl showing up in their trees, according to Don Berry, county agent.

This disease shows up as curled leaves which are yellow or reddish in color and somewhat thickened in texture, Berry explained. Since this is caused by a fungus disease that works in the winter time, nothing can be done to cure leaves which are already curled.

Since these leaves will eventually drop and new leaves replace them the best current practice would be to apply sulfate of ammonia or other good commercial fertilizers to your peach trees to stimulate them to grow new leaves, the county agent said.

Neutral copper sprays applied after harvest and again during the winter time are the best method of controlling this disease. Home orchard spray schedules covering this and other diseases of backyard fruit trees may be picked up at the county agent's office in the courthouse, he said.

Beekeepers Plan Meeting Tonight

Beekeepers' meeting will be held today in the courthouse auditorium, at 7:30 p.m. Ken Gordon, state bee inspector, will be on hand to discuss "bee inspection" and "registration" along with bee diseases.

Also there will be a discussion on packaging bees and rearing queens.

This program is geared for beginning beekeepers or anyone interested in bees or honey. The public is invited whether they are beekeepers or simply interested. There will be a door prize.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

People don't eat the good breakfasts they used to. This has had a serious effect on the state's and nation's egg producers.

Since eggs are primarily a breakfast food the trend away from the big breakfast of ham and eggs naturally would affect those who produce eggs for America's markets, explained Noel Bennion, Oregon State college extension poultry specialist.

Eggs at current prices pegged as low as three dozen a dollar are the best food buy for the housewife, Bennion noted. However, egg purchase or consumption per capita was 350 over the United States during 1958. U. S. consumption in 1945 was 400 eggs, he added.

Housewives can build many meals around eggs, the poultry expert said. One of the present aims of the poultry industry is to make them realize it. The broiler people have been hard hit also by the drop in demand, Bennion said.

Complicating this problem is the large increase in the average rate of lay—from 165 in 1940 to 1958's 221. Also, the high price of feed is another factor. For this reason poultrymen favor the two-price wheat plan. That means that wheat would be sold for one price when used in feeds and for a higher price when set for human consumption as in bakery products and cereals.

Poultrymen now have the lowest egg-feed ratio in 35 years. This means the cost of producing a dozen eggs from a pound of feed. To see what can be done with this situation, Bennion has been holding a series of meetings with poultrymen. Tuesday night, he met with poultrymen in Grants Pass to review the situation. There, plans were made to help stimulate consumption of poultry products. A hopeful sign Bennion can point to is the United States Department of Agriculture's forecast that average egg consumption by the end of the year will be 353 eggs per person. This means three more eggs will have been consumed than in 1958.

Bennion points to the surplus wheat and the high support prices paid for it. This, he says, could be sold at lower prices to replace corn in poultry feeds.

Bennion probably told poultrymen last night (Wednesday night) as he told us that they would have to streamline their production methods. Tighter screening of cull hens is needed and concentration on high quality eggs.

As far as we can learn there is no poultry center of this state. Poultry farms are pretty well scattered. However, this is an important Oregon agriculture industry since it grosses \$40 million—\$1,550,000 in Jackson county. Fifty-six per cent of this state's income comes from eggs, 25 per cent from turkeys, 15 per cent from broilers and the remainder from sale of cull laying hens, according to Bennion's figures.

Eggs right now are in the usual seasonal upswing in quantity, market observers admit. However, year-around overproduction has resulted from the gradual switch from farm flock production to "egg factories." This trend isn't quite as strong in Oregon yet. Experts have noted that the diversified farmer who doesn't rely on poultry as his only source of income may be better off right now.

Other states such as those in the east, south, southwest and California have stronger mass-production trends. Some California poultry farms use as many as 200,000 layers. What is called the world's largest henhouse, near Johnstown, Pa., a million layers are expected to produce 14,000 cases of eggs weekly.

As the milk producers of Oregon, Washington and northern California have recently had to organize a large cooperative organization the poultrymen may have to do the same thing—maybe on a nationwide basis.

A friend of ours dropped off a little item printed in a state agriculture bulletin which we think graphically shows the current general agricultural picture.

Potatoes are grown to keep the vines from blowing away; the grower from going away and the buyer from throwing away his money on Wall Street, loaded dice, pumpkin games or the simpler forms of gambling.

Potatoes are handled as though they were worth a million dollars. They are sprayed by the grower, prayed over by his wife and preyed upon by the buyer. They are nitrated, freight-rated and berated. They are thinned, washed, rinsed, sized, wiped, blown upon, labeled and selected. They are inspected, insected, dissected and rejected.

They are graded by the grower, re-graded by the inspector and upbranded by the state experts. Any man who can think up new ways of rejecting potatoes is called a horticultural inspector and given a \$10,000 a year job by the state.

After the grower does all this, and gets what potatoes are left into a freight car, he turns them over to a broker. He is called this because he is the same as the grower, only broker. This man sends them 2,000 miles away and has them looked at by a color-blind confederate who telegraphs back that they can't handle the car at any price on account of lack of color and "try to get a half dollar per hundred."

Then they call in the grade guesser. The paid guesser is called an inspector by the authorities, a crook by the buyer and a darn fool by the grower. After two more telephone calls, the grower says: "All right, do the best you can do for me, will you?" And goes out to load up another car.

The broker brings them back to the next town; sells them for 10 per cent less than the price of the empty sacks and deducts freightage, demurrage, storage, lighterage, towage, breakage, postage, and his own age; that leaves the grower's children entering the orphanage.

Be you turkey grower, poultry grower, pear grower, beef or dairyman this could be you.

Oregon State college's farm crops club was given a good insight into Jackson county agriculture during its visit here Friday and Saturday. We do know, thanks to the hardworking Eagle Point Grange women, they received the best in farm cooking. The farm crops club is composed of youth

interested in some form of raising crops. One, for instance, is studying plant breeding. Others were interested in research or in eventually raising their own crops.

During Friday's dinner at the Eagle Point Grange hall, true to tradition, some of the farmers sponsoring the tour here gave brief talks on what these boys could expect in their future agricultural work. Each club member appeared to listen carefully but we think they would have been even more interested if they knew more of the backgrounds of their hosts.

One farmer attending the dinner like his fellows had become a successful farmer the hard way. Although he appears the typical farmer, he didn't know much about farming until he settled on a farm here. He had been in the oil field equipment business in Los Angeles. Both he and his wife did it through hard work and seeking expert advice from such agencies as the soil conservation service and the county extension service.

They now have 1,000 acres, raising alfalfa seed and beef. "We just about lost it (the money they came with) but we hung on and somehow worked our way through," this farmer said.

All the farmers there were active in either farm or civic organizations and activities or both. One such farmer, for instance, has been active in school and county organizations. He was on the firing line as the county pushed through its subdivision ordinance. Another is on the county budget committee. Yet another has been active in dairy promotion activities. These men, in other words, do more than lean over the back fence to cuss and discuss their problems. They are doing something about them.

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