

Rogue Val Holsteins Still Top Milkers

Rogue Val Holstein farm, Eagle Point, continues to have the top herd of milking cows, according to February and March Jackson County Dairy Herd Improvement association reports.

This herd averaged 61 pounds of butter fat production in February and 56 pounds in March. In February and March this top herd had 10 cows tested and in production, no dry cows in February and one dry cow in March. Average milk production in February was 1,529 pounds and 1,451 pounds in March.

Gilman's Dairy farm, Medford, second rated, gained a little over its February production, 46 pounds butterfat average compared to 39.0 pounds in February. Other statistics were 92 cows in production, for February and 95 in March. Twelve cows were dry in February compared to seven in March. Average milk production was 960 pounds in February and 1,139 pounds in March.

C. C. and Sidie Williams, Ashland, and Glenn and Edna Chase, Gold Hill, continued to rank third and fourth in March as they did in February.

Statistics for the Williams herd shows 35 cows tested in February and March, 5 dry cows in February and four in March; 737 pound average milk production in February and 864 in March; 36.9 and 41.9 pound butterfat average.

Herd Statistics
Chase herd statistics show 24 cows tested for both months; two dry cows in February and five in March; 930 and 1,017 pounds of milk; 36.7 and 40.3 pounds of butterfat.

Walter and Helen Herzog, Central Point, had the fifth-rated herd for February with 35.3 pounds of butterfat. Cloverlawn Guernsey farm was fifth-rated in March with 39.9 pounds of butterfat.

Herzog herd statistics show 31 cows, none dry, 881 pounds of milk. Other figures for the Cloverlawn herd are 42 cows, three dry, 752 pounds of milk. The ten top cows for February, their owner or owners, pounds of milk, pounds of butterfat and days in milk are: Rogue Val Holstein farm, Cow No. 2, 2,648, 108.6 and 89; R. R. Bitterling's Penny, 1,923, 90.4 and 47; Spear L ranch's No. 58, 2,001, 90.0 and 87; Bill and Jo Hubbard's Ada

Junior, 1,876, 90.0 and 46; C. C. and Sidie Williams' Brown, 1,633, 86.5 and 107; Gilman's No. 17, 2,245, 85.4 and 75; Gilman's No. 103, 2,227, 80.2 and 55; Cloverlawn's Meri, 1,433, 78.8 and 39; Spear L. Ranch 99, 1,789, 76.9 and 34; Fritz and Helen Carlson's Blackie, 2,021, 76.8 and 38.

The ten top cows for March and their statistics are: Gilman's No. 63, 2,533, 103.9 and 38; Gilman's No. 47, 2,651, 98.1 and 39; Lazy L ranch's Boss, 1,371, 97.9 and 51; C. C. and Sidie Williams' Socks, 1,730, 88.2 and 106; Cliff and Velma Moore's Elinor, 2,288, 86.9 and 40; Straus Brothers' No. 1, 2,099, 84.0 and 106; Chet Jensen's Bay Lady, 1,342, 81.9 and 51; Gilman's No. 44, 1,528, 81.0 and 29; Walter and Helen Herzog's Twinkle, 1,928, 79.0 and 53; George Holt's Bloom, 2,009, 78.4 and 54.

Spelt Susceptible To Yellow Virus

Salem - The state department of agriculture today warned Oregon farmers to go easy on buying spelt (a wheat-like grain) for seeding in the belief that it is resistant to yellow dwarf virus.

The federal seed marketing specialist, W. D. Hay at Sacramento, California, has asked the Oregon department to run down reports of spelt arrivals and advertising in Oregon.

Hay says the federal grain division office at Portland has been advised by an Oregon State college extension agronomist that spelt is susceptible to yellow dwarf in Oregon, but not to the degree to which barley and oats are affected.

Cereal grains, which would include spelt, are not covered in the Oregon seed law. But interstate shipments of this type of seed are subject to the federal seed act if they come in under misrepresentation or are falsely advertised, states Hugh Taylor of the Oregon department.

Taylor says with the heavy virus losses occurring in recent years, farmers are looking for satisfactory replacement crops.

Farm and Garden

Tomato Now Popular With Gardeners

BY HARRY HARLOW
Medford Gardener

Since 95 per cent of our population include tomatoes in some form as a part of their diet, and a large percentage of home gardeners devote space to this popular vegetable, we believe a brief history and some interesting statistics along with a few cultural suggestions might be timely. The planting season is close at hand.

The tomato is a native plant of South America. It was introduced in Europe early in the 16th century. When first brought to America it was thought to be poisonous, and tomatoes were not eaten until 1835. Botanically the tomato is a fruit, but ordinarily is classified a vegetable. The tomato has come a long way in popularity and use in something over a century. It now ranks next to the potato in economic value. It is an excellent source of vitamins A and C. Its water content is high and it is low in carbohydrates, proteins and fats.

Over 45 million bushels of tomatoes are sold each year. More than 40 million cases of juices are processed. Also, there are more millions of cans and bottles of ketchup, sauces and soups. More millions of pounds are grown in home gardens. These astonishing figures add up to well over 5 million tons valued at over a billion dollars. All of these facts attest to the popularity of the tomato, causing it to be one of the most favored vegetables in home gardens.

Use Cow Manure
In preparing the soil, we suggest spading in cow manure, it contains some nitrogen, phosphate and potash, and is an excellent source of organic matter. It also greatly improves the physical condition and structure of the soil. Very little feeding is necessary until the plants are well started. Our results with a balanced fertilizer were excellent, but we would suggest caution until the first two bloom clusters have set on.

Watering is extremely important, but no set rule can be followed. The type of soil condition related to growth in foliage and fruit, temperature and sunlight, all of these factors must be taken into consideration. Don't let the time element or the appearance of the top soil influence or determine whether you should or should not water. Don't guess, use dandelion digger or some similar tool and go down into the root zone, being careful not to get too close to the plants. There you will find the answer. The right kind of mulch is valuable, it conserves moisture and makes favorable conditions for growth of roots close to the surface. At this point, let us say that while it was our personal opinion that the soil in the Medford area is extremely deficient in nitrogen we found a fertilizer with a high nitrogen content had been satisfactory.

Checked With Cordy
We felt before making positive statements regarding such vital facts in plant culture, it would be well to consult with County Agent Clifford Cordy. He tells us that early in the season when the plants are just getting established and the weather is still cool only a small amount of nitrogen is necessary. Phosphorus can be applied in fairly large amounts as this is the time it is most needed. Cordy recommends stepping up nitrogen applications as plant growth increases and the weather becomes warmer. He concurs that a "little" and "often" is a safe practiced method to follow in your feeding program.

Cordy feels it is better not to incorporate sawdust with the soil before planting tomatoes. He suggests it makes an excellent mulch to be applied when the root system is working overtime to supply sufficient moisture for an abundant growth that in-

cludes fruit and foliage. Remember that 90 per cent of your success with tomatoes will be due to proper watering and feeding methods.

We have patterned our methods of growing tomatoes by observing the results obtained by greenhouse growers who grow tomatoes under glass. The yield is tremendous, from 9,000 to 11,000 plants are grown to an acre. It is not unusual to produce 96,000 pounds of tomatoes. Out door growers stake their tomatoes in many parts of the country, greatly increasing the yields and hastening the ripening of the fruit. Growing tomatoes on stakes, 2 1/2 feet apart each way, is a most interesting and practical method of tomato culture. When your plants reach a height of 7 feet, which means that you will then have seven clusters, you can snip off the top of the vine, or let it grow higher.

We grew three plants to each hill, cutting off all laterals as soon as they appeared. In a small area you can grow all of the tomatoes that you can eat and can have fun doing it. Tomatoes grown off the ground in air and sunlight are more tastier. They are richer in vitamins.

Washington - UPI - Prices received by farmers for crops and livestock in the month ended March 15 rose 3 per cent to the highest level since last July.

The Agriculture Department reported Thursday that the prices received still were 1 1/2 percent below the same period a year ago.

Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson, anticipating the rise, recently hailed the strengthening in farm prices as evidence that 1960 farm income would not decline from 1959 levels.

Mongold Cattle Rated High by Jersey Club

The American Jersey Cattle club recently issued special silver, gold, medal of merit, and ton of gold awards for high and outstanding production of registered Jerseys in the W.D. Mongold herd at Eagle Point.

La Pine Sparkling Gloria at 8 years and 3 months of age in 305 days, produced 11,281 pounds of milk and

Men and Jobs Tightening Up In Animal Dept.

Salem - Reassignments in the state department of agriculture's division of animal industry to tighten up operations for stock owners are planned by Fred Pope, division chief, to become effective April 1.

In addition to greater efficiency, the plan is expected to produce the pleasant by-product of a \$9,000 annual savings over the present operation, Pope says.

Four livestock officer will each serve a district and of two others one will be assigned to meat inspection under Dr. M. L. Houston and the other to animal disease enforcement work under Dr. E. Bodenweiser. This will reduce need to fill an existing vacancy.

Under this arrangement, assignments will be: Guy Hughes from Medford to northeastern Oregon with Baker headquarters; E. L. Wright, Salem, northwestern Oregon; Eldon Beckner from Eugene to Medford to serve southwestern Oregon; Guy Woodworth continued at Madras. Ed Albert will come from Heppner to Salem for animal disease enforcement; and Claude Shaw, Vernonia, will take over the Salem area as livestock officer on meat inspection enforcement problems, and will eventually move nearer Salem.

Livestock officers will be relieved of brand inspection supervision and two brand inspectors, Elmore Nicholson of Fort Klamath and LaVerne McCauley, The Dalles, will become district supervising brand inspectors. J. E. Smith, Ontario, and Paul S. Knight, North Portland Union Stockyards, will continue as supervising brand inspectors.

Grape Mealybug Found in Pears

By Dr. LOUIS G. GENTNER
Experiment Station Entomologist

A pest found on D'Anjou pears by Don Berry, assistant county agent in horticulture, has been identified as the grape mealybug. It is the first time that the insect has been found in this area.

Studies are being carried on by the experiment station to find out what the development and habits of the pest are under Rogue River valley conditions to determine the most effective time for applying control measures. Several materials have been applied to infested pear trees to test their effectiveness.

The grape mealybug is widely distributed in the United States and has been a pest of pear trees in California for many years. It has a very large number of host plants other than grapes and pears on which it feeds. It may occur naturally on the roots and tops of such plants as clover, elder, mallow, nightshade and willow. In our area we found young crawlers in mistletoe leaves on oak trees adjoining infested pear trees.

Sucking Insects

These insects have sucking mouthparts and extract the sap from tender parts of branches, green parts of fruit spurs, leaves, fruits and stems. They give off large quantities of honeydew which drips on leaves and fruits and on which a black sooty mold may grow. Trees are weakened and fruit grade lowered.

There are two generations annually. The mature females are flattened, elongate and oval, about 1/4 inch long, brownish to grayish in color, lightly covered with a white waxy powder which extends from the sides as short thread-like projections, with two longer spines at the back end. They are wingless and move about freely on the plant.

The females of the second generation mature in late summer and early fall when they produce white cottony egg masses beneath the bark flakes. Each contains 250 or more eggs. The eggs soon hatch and the young remain in the shelter of the

egg masses until the following spring. When the fruit clusters are fairly well developed and the weather is warm, the young crawlers leave the egg masses and crawl out to feed. In our area the young were very abundant in fruit clusters on March 24. These are dull brownish gray in color and they are so small that it is difficult to see them without a magnifier. The young mature about the latter part of July and first of August in our area when they produce the white cottony egg masses under loose bark, in crotches of branches or in other rough places. The eggs hatch soon and a second generation develops.

Growers are asked to be on the lookout for this pest in their orchards. They should report any suspicious cases. The presence of white cottony masses on branches in late July and August and the presence of quantities of honeydew on leaves and fruit when few pear psylla are present are two indications.

Washington - UPI - Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson predicts per capita net income of the nation's farm dwellers will be as large in this election year as in 1959 "and perhaps slightly larger."

Benson made the forecast Tuesday in briefing newsmen on results of a two-day closed meeting of his 18-member national agricultural advisory commission.

Benson said continuing improvement in the outlook for hog, poultry, egg, and dairy prices produced the new prediction that there might be no change this year from the 1959 farm income level.

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Meat Foods for Pets Now Under State Regulation

Salem - Sanitation and labeling provisions surrounding the production of meat food for animals and pets are contained in new regulations adopted by the state department of agriculture.

Under 1959 legislation, processors of animal or pet foods are required to obtain a license from the department.

Under the regulations, no animals intended for human consumption may be slaughtered or processed in a pet and animal food slaughter establishment. However, plants which slaughter meat for human consumption may process, handle or sell pet or animal food provided the latter operations are conducted in a separate room or rooms with separate equipment.

Further Safeguard Given
As a further safeguard to human consumers, meat or meat products from animals slaughtered for pet or animal food must be treated with a harmless dye or powdered charcoal. This treatment must be sufficient to earmark the meat as not for humans. Sanitation requirements for

operation of a pet or animal food plant relate to physical construction, plant operation and disposal of waste products.

Labels on pet or animal food must contain, in addition to processor's name and address, net weight and contents, the words "Pet Food," "Animal Food," or "Dog and Cat Food"-plus the wording "not for human consumption." Only sealed retail containers, retort processed, are exempt from the "not for human consumption" on the label.

Copies of the regulation are available from the State Department of Agriculture.

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