

Farm & Garden

Pasture Program Outlined by Agent

By EUGENE WINTERS
County Agent

Irrigated pasture management is too often neglected in the important production of meat and milk on Jackson County farms. The goals of good pasture management are to produce efficiently as much meat or milk per acre as possible throughout the pasture season.

These goals can be achieved with a proper irrigation, fertilizer and weed control program plus regulated grazing.

The aim of irrigation is to maintain a continuous supply of available soil moisture to the pasture plants. Plants such as Lotus and Ladino clover root to different depths. Ladino clover, being shallow rooted, requires frequent irrigations to keep the top six inches of soil moist. Infrequent heavy irrigations would benefit the deeper rooted Lotus at the expense of the Ladino clover. When both shallow rooted and deep rooted forage plants are in the stand it is necessary to maintain soil moisture through both root zones.

Check Water

The amount of water necessary to apply can be determined through the use of a probe, soil auger or under medium and light textured soils conditions with soil moisture blocks. Excess water is a waste resulting in leaching of plant foods, reduced plant growth, making conditions right for the encroachment of undesirable water-loving plants and soil compaction when the animals are turned in. When pasture plants are at the wilting stage one inch of water will wet a one inch soil to about four inches, a loam soil to about eight inches, and a sandy soil to 12 inches or more.

Livestock should not be allowed on the pasture while it is irrigated, or until the surface soil has dried. Wet soils when compacted by stock result in poor plant growth and poor water penetration.

Irrigated pastures like other crops have maximum yields are desired require fertilization. Animal manure is valuable, but it returns only one-third of the nutrient supply in the forage eaten by the animals. The addition of commercial fertilizers is recommended for the establishment and continued high production for several years. Fertilizer experiments in Jackson County have shown response from applications of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, lime, boron and sulfur. A soil test should be used as a basis for fertilizer application. Phosphorus, sulfur, lime and boron may be applied in the fall. Under most conditions nitrogen and potassium should be applied in February or early March. More than one annual application of potassium is necessary on some soils. Nitrogen benefits the grass while phosphorus, sulfur, potassium and boron are most beneficial to the legumes. Heavy nitrogen rates tend to reduce the legumes.

In the stand. High rates of phosphorus and sulfur will increase the vigor of the legumes to the disadvantage of the grass. Fertilizing weeds or weedy grasses seldom will pay.

The omission of any one of the irrigation, fertilization, controlled grazing and weed control factors of pasture management can limit production, but the management of grazing has a greater influence on the condition of the pasture than any other factor. Rotation grazing or daily rationing will give increased production and better utilization of forage on improved pasture.

Three to four weeks should elapse between grazing periods. The actual grazing time is one day for daily ration or three to four days for rotation grazing. Close grazing to a two inch height encourages clovers while leaving a four to five inch height encourages grass. A height of eight to ten inches should be reached before pasturing starts. The height when grazing starts, the height grazed back to, the fertilizers used and irrigation application will determine the per cent of clover or grass. The ideal pasture would be about one-half grass and one-half clover.

Weed Control

Weed control in pasture can be accomplished through proper and careful irrigation, mowing and the use of chemicals. Good water management will reduce the possibility of getting weeds such as star thistle in the dry areas or water-loving plants such as curly dock and buckhorn in the overly wet areas. Mowing annual weeds before they mature is one of the best methods of preventing their increase and spread. There is also an advantage to mowing occasionally to promote even cropping and full utilization of forage. Chemical weed control is limited as to materials available that will not kill beneficial plants or meet residue requirements. Spot spraying with 2,4-D for both some perennial broad leafed weeds can be effective. Blanket applications are not recommended because of damage to legumes.

Pastures needing extensive applications of herbicides for weed control should be plowed up and seeded to annual crops such as grain for a year or two. Weed control under this type of crop can be more selective. Specific chemicals could then be used that best control the particular weed or weeds. Good weed control through cultivation and chemical means prior to seeding a permanent pasture will pay off.

Proper irrigation, fertilization and grazing resulting in a thrifty stand keeps weeds under control.

Ottawa—President Kennedy's address to a joint session of Parliament will be carried live on the English and French radio and television networks of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

310 Cattle Sold At Midway Yard At Friday Sale

Ninety consignors sold 310 cattle, 60 hogs and seven sheep during the regular Friday sale at the Midway auction yard.

Good to choice Hereford steer calves, 280 to 470 pounds sold at \$24.25 to \$26 per hundredweight. Medium quality, 350 to 450 pound steers went out at \$20.50 to \$22.80.

Heifer calves, 300 to 375 pounds, went out at \$22.50 to \$23.75. Yearling heifers, 500 to 600 pounds, sold from \$20.50 to \$21.80.

Yearling steers, good to choice at 400 to 600 pounds, sold from \$23 to \$24.40, and 700 pounds, \$20.10 to \$20.80. Medium quality yearling steers sold from \$18 to \$20.

A pen of purebred Angus heifers that weighed 481 pounds after the sale brought \$153 per head.

A pen of eight cows with calves sold for \$214 per pair. Holstein steers sold a little cheaper with 340 to 450 pound calves going for \$19 to \$20.10 and those weighing 600 to 725 pounds selling from \$17 to \$18.10.

A truckload of fat steers weighing 1,000 to 1,150 pounds brought \$21.60 to \$22. A fairly heavy run of slaughter cows found an active market with good smooth Hereford cows bringing \$15.50 to \$16.50. Heavy utility cows went out at \$14.80 to \$15.50. Cutters sold at \$13.30 to \$14.10 and canners, \$11 to \$12.90.

One 1,700 pound bull brought \$21.60. Other 1,000 to 1,300 pound bulls sold at \$17.40 to \$19.30 per hundredweight.

Vent price was \$28. Most good veal went out at \$23 to \$24.50. Fat hogs sold from \$18 to \$18.10. Feeder pigs sold from \$17.60 to \$19.25. Weaners sold from \$8 to \$9.50. A few good weaners sold at \$11. Sows sold at \$13.80 to \$14.40. Most good sows sold for over \$14.

"We sold about 100 head of stock calves by the head. We do this because many buyers need to know exactly how much their cattle are going to cost when they bid," Owner-Manager Bill Gray explained. "We do not quote prices on these head sales unless their weight is known, but it is apparent that they bring as much or more by the head as they would have by the pound."

Council on Aging To Meet Wednesday

The Rogue Valley Council on Aging will meet at noon at the Jackson hotel Wednesday, May 17, instead of Thursday afternoon, according to Gene William, chairman.

Future action on development of low rental public housing will be discussed as well as the best method of making a housing survey considered necessary. Reports on the Senior Center building fund will be made.

Persons interested in the projects are invited to attend. Non-members of the council planning to attend should make reservations by telephoning the Jackson hotel.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Neighborhood seems to be a lost art these days. That's why when we come across some good neighbors we are impressed.

We were visiting a small farmer Saturday afternoon and learned he is moving into a small house in town. "Have to look to the future when I get old," this active 75-year-old man said. "Couldn't have made it this far without my good neighbor. He always just happens over when I need some help."

Then he told us how he was wrestling a balky calf into a trailer to take him to the auction yard. The elderly farmer pulled, the calf pulled, and nobody seemed to be getting anywhere. Then the neighbor came over, dropped a rope around the calf's neck and pulled him up into the trailer. This veteran farmer has a few pear trees so his neighbor checks the temperatures for him during the orchard heating season and helps him with his heaters. These are just a few examples.

One of the larger orchardists in the valley is also generous in lending his farm equipment to a neighboring beefman. And the rancher returned the favor recently by helping with the orchard heating.

One of the county agents earlier this year helped a farmer wire his barn. The farmer has helped many, many people throughout the valley so was just getting a little return help. This county agent like others in his office continually do more than what their respective jobs call for. However, since the county extension office is a service agency to farmers many of their good deeds go without recognition.

We have found farmers here generally good neighbors. And that's a good thing because only through joining their efforts will many of the small farmers be able to survive.

On the other hand, sometimes you see the good neighbor policy fall by the wayside. Sunday, we learned that a man with an injured arm had to wait almost an hour along the South Pacific highway before somebody stopped to help him with a flat tire. He had started to remove the tire himself using his bandaged hand and arm the best he could when a motorist stopped. And the highway was crowded with Sunday afternoon drivers.

Apparently, people are not deliberately unhelpful. Neighborhood takes time and some people never slow down long enough to help each other.

One of our neighbors has a small, but going purebred beef operation. He and his wife work in town to help support their farming and devote all their spare time to farm work. His wife was working the squeeze-chute while our lanky friend tattooed calves. "To be a success in this business two main things you need is a good wife and a good dog," he grunted while wrestling with a calf. This couple is proof that a high quality part-time farming operation can be successful. Local bankers probably have had little to do with this farmer since he operates on a pay-as-you-go basis. However, he admits he might have been farther ahead financially if he had built his barn as a complete unit even if he had borrowed the money to do it.

Promoters of the renewed annual Cal-Ore. Hereford association bull sale this fall will have to do some high-powered selling to convince our neighbor and others like him that they should put their high quality bulls in the sale. These people have established a good market for their animals in places like Sacramento and feel they must get top cash for their comparatively high per animal investment. One local livestock expert strongly recommends grading the sale animals to attract more buyers and sellers.

Water surveys to the south of us don't look good. They already have had some effect on cattle sales here since much of the stock is shipped out of the valley to California. Latest reports from that area are that Shasta lake may have enough water to meet normal demand through the summer for northern California. There will be a definite shortage from Sacramento south, however. April rains were not enough to help.

This will be the third straight year of low rainfall, according to reports. The University of California agricultural extension service has pinpointed drought-fear areas as southern California, the central coastal counties, the southern San Joaquin valley, and the Sierra region. The service has reactivated its drought committee and is already sending out advice to the 56 counties in which it has personnel so ranchers will know how best to meet drought problems as they come.

The dry winter has cut back already the growth of range feed in many sections. Winter grain is in poor condition in southern California and in danger of damage in the Sacramento valley, according to latest information received. Many farmers have deepened their wells and lowered their pumping equipment.

Pasture and fruit are two of the crops which are most likely to suffer from lack of water and have a resulting effect upon this area's agricultural economy. If pastures are not sufficient for many cattle then fewer cattlemen from the south will be up here buying our beef to feed out. However, local yards report prices on beef calves holding up well and northern California which provides most of our customers may have enough water for the season.

Earlier this spring many orchards along the central and south coasts and in the San Joaquin valley were wet to only 30 inches from rains. So, competition from there may be less. Livestockmen in central and southern California fear another season of heavy and expensive feeding.

Local indications are that farmers will have enough irrigation water to squeak by. Orchardists the last two years are more careful not to over-irrigate because of the pear decline problem. Farmers under the Talent Irrigation district have more than enough water, according to current predictions.

Jackson County Watermaster D. C. Hendrix predicts that water-users along the larger streams should be fairly well off this irrigation season. Those along the smaller streams may have a little trouble. The cool, wet spring has made it possible for all districts to avoid drawing from storage so far, Hendrix noted. Some years the local districts have had to draw on their storage about this time.

The modern slogan in some large cities is not "market-fresh fruit and vegetables" but "air-fresh". In other words, growers of high quality fruit and produce on the Pacific Coast are shipping more of their top produce and gift-packaged items by air.

So far, even the larger local packinghouses don't ship much fruit by air because of high costs. Two of the larger firms ship to Hawaii and Alaska and tack the extra charges onto their list prices. One of the larger packinghouses reported it confines its air shipments to the peak of the gift-pack season. However, you can bet that if and when the air freight becomes a more economical form of shipment the Medford pear shippers will be using it. The Medford pear district has always kept up with the newest trends and often develops them.

Best description of the industry we have heard recently is "nobody plays harder, takes longer gambles, or can sniff a buck further away. They are tough in competition, open-hearted in personal relations, and people of broad horizons."

This air-freight to the eastern gourmet market is growing, however. American Airlines reported in 1960 it flew 681,000 pounds of fruit to eastern markets from California. The jet plane is expected to cut shipping costs by sheer speed. In 1962 new jet cargo planes will be available to haul 80,000 pounds at a crack.

How does this work? Strawberries from San Jose or

Market Steady On Most Classes At Phoenix Yard

Phoenix—The market was steady on all classes of cattle except heavy steers weighing 800 pounds and over.

Hereford baby calves sold \$41 to \$54 per head. Mixed baby calves sold from \$28 to \$34 per head. Holstein baby calves sold from \$22 to \$31 per head. Jersey and Guernsey baby calves sold from \$7 to \$21 per head. Hereford weaner calves 300 to 400 pounds, sold at \$22.75 to \$23.50 per hundredweight. Single Hereford steer calves, weighing 350 to 450 pounds, sold at \$24.50 to \$26.30.

One pen of Hereford weaner calves, weighing about 400 pounds, sold at \$97 per head. One pen of Hereford calves, weighing about 300 pounds, sold at \$76 per head. Hereford yearling herefords, weighing 500 to 650 pounds, sold at \$19.50 to \$21 per hundredweight. Hereford yearling steers, weighing 750 to 1,100 pounds, sold at \$20.50 to \$21.60 per hundredweight.

Good quality Hereford cows and calves remain steady with young cows in short supply. One lot of young cows with baby calves sold at \$210 per pair. Mixed cows and calves in singles sold at \$165 to \$195 per pair.

Slaughter cows are holding at steady prices. Hereford utility cows sold at \$15.80 to \$16.70 per hundredweight. Holstein utility cows sold at \$14.90 to \$15.00 per hundredweight. Holstein utility cows sold at \$14.90 to \$15.80 per hundredweight. Canner and cutter cows sold at \$12.80 to \$15 per hundredweight.

Watsonville can be packed 1,000 pounds to the package and land in eastern markets less than 12 hours later. Some have even gone to London to sell there at \$1.50 a half-basket. Other fruit shipped from Los Angeles last year were served on a luxury liner all the way to Europe and half-way back.

Special containers for the perishables are a crucial factor. One such container is rigid and the other collapsible. The insulated packages are filled at the packing plant with precooled produce, rushed to the plane, refrigerated en route, unloaded in New York and rushed to coolers so the fruit arrives in the store at the same temperature it left the plant.

The experts in this business point out that maintaining the necessary quality in these shipments requires working with everyone along the line from grower to retailer. Proper handling procedures are an integral part of this operation.

Anyway, it's something to think about now and plan for perhaps a little later.

Aphis Population High This Year

Aphis populations are high again this year, according to Jackson County Extension Agent, Dave Passon.

The sticky, soft-bodied insects can be found on practically every type of foliage from strawberries to walnut trees this year.

Aphis, as a whole, are relatively easy to control, but control measures vary with the crop and the acreage involved. Malathion is possibly the best all around aphicide for the home orchardist or gardener. The commercial vegetable grower will probably use malathion or dibrom. The commercial orchardist will probably use diazinon or parathion.

Some people confuse aphis damage with peach leaf curl. Passon said. From a distance the two problems do look similar. On closer observation, however, the aphis infested leaves are curled, sticky and yellow with aphis visible inside the curled leaves.

Leaves infested with curly leaf are curled and crisp with thickened areas turning red later in the season.

Aphis can be controlled during the season, whereas curly leaf can be controlled only by dormant sprays, Passon said.

New York Man Named To Weyerhaeuser Board

Tacoma—(UPI)—Thomas C. Taylor, Rochester, N.Y., was elected to the Weyerhaeuser Co. board of directors Monday at a meeting of shareholders here.

The shareholders also voted to reduce the board from 16 members to 15.

Portland Haircut Prices Unchanged

Portland—(UPI)—The price of haircuts here will not go up. Members of the Barbers Union have voted 212-168 to keep the prices at \$1.75 instead of raising them to \$2.

A spokesman said the vote was the closest in five years.

ASKS CLERGY UNION

St. Bartholomew's, England —(UPI)—The Rev. Peter Gamlen called Monday for a trade union or professional organization for clergymen. He said such an organization could negotiate a living wage for members of the clergy.

GARDENING TIPS

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN
County Extension Agent

Borers — Recently planted trees and shrubs and those weakened from other causes such as mechanical injury, fire, drought, disease and insects are often attacked and killed by borers. These borers are the larvae or worm stage of various beetles and moths.

In general, the adult insect deposits the eggs in or below the bark or scar tissue of the tree during spring. These eggs hatch and the larvae bore into the inner bark and sapwood where they remain through the winter. In spring pupation takes place and the adults emerge to continue the cycle.

Control — Preventative measures are best for control of borer infestation. Adequate watering during dry spells, proper fertilization, spraying for control of insects and fungi, treating bark wounds and pruning infected or weakened branches are recommended. Borers seldom attack trees in good condition.

The trunks and larger branches of transplanted trees are frequently wrapped with specially prepared crepe paper. In addition to preventing borer infestation, this prevents sunscald and drying out.

This protective paper is wrapped from the highest practical point on the trunk to the ground. Each turn is overlapped one-half the width of the material so that a double thickness covers the tree trunk. Binder twine is spirally wound in the opposite direction to hold the paper in place. The wrap is usually left on the tree for two years.

Spraying the bark during the adult egg laying period with eight tablespoons of DDT per gallon of water is a standard practice. Three or four applications at three week intervals are usually necessary to insure protection for the entire egg laying period.

Once the eggs are hatched and the borer has entered the tree different control measures must be followed. Sawdust-like frass around the tunnel is an indication that the borer is in the tree.

Toxic pastes are injected into the borer's tunnel and the tunnel is then sealed with putty, gum or grafting wax. Probing with a sharp knife or inserting a flexible wire into the tunnel to crush the borer are also control measures.

Branches and trees killed by borers should be cut and burned to prevent further spread.

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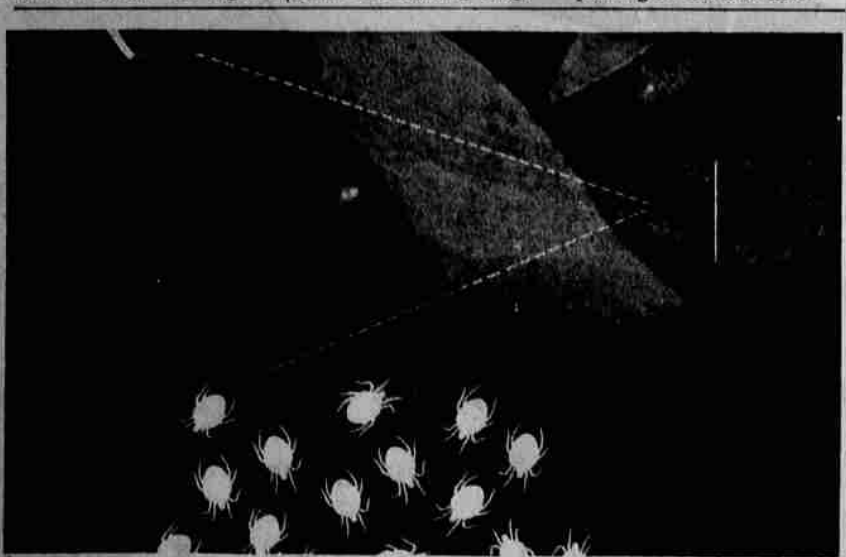
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