

Santa Gertrudis Come In To Rogue River Valley Ranch

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Pete Bateman and his three sons believe they now have a breed which will meet all the demands on modern beef animals.

They recently had shipped in 15 cows and one bull of the red Santa Gertrudis—a Brahman cross. Only other Oregon ranch which has this type of beef featuring hardiness as well as quality is in Redmond, Pete Bateman believes.

The Bateman boys put on an impromptu rodeo as they led the calves out to pasture for the first time. Full of life the young heaves bucked and kicked and a couple managed to yank the halter ropes out of the hands of their handlers.

One of the calves was unable to break free. So, we managed to get a picture of Geronimo, Fum Ho, born Jan. 15, 1961. She is from the Ke-Ho-Kah ranch. The calf that broke loose was sired by Apache 42, eight times a grand champion. His home ranch is Tucuman, Ariz., 18 miles north of Nogales and 45 miles south of Tucson.

Has Other Breeds
Although Bateman has other breeds on his ranch he expects to "make more money out of these cattle than anything on feed." He noted that at nine months his young animals have outweighed other breeds on the ranch by 65 pounds each. Rated as good meat animals, they dress out 60 to 65 per cent. Sixty-two per cent is average for Santa Gertrudis beef animals, Bateman pointed out.

He also noted that calves of the Santa Gertrudis line placed in the top money at the Houston Livestock show. One sold for \$5,000 and another for \$4,000.

The Batemans have nine cows and a bull which are certified. Cattle are eligible for certification after the Santa Gertrudis cross with a certified bull on a cow. Certification is a complicated

procedure requiring high standards of the animals. A Brahman can be crossed with a Hereford, Angus or Shorthorn. Brahmas are hard to handle and have a temperament of their own. Bateman pointed out. The resultant cross produces a rugged, but fairly gentle animal.

The Batemans have a comparatively small ranch as cattle ranches go so figure they have to have top animals to get the best of their feed and pasture. They think the Santa Gertrudis is such an animal. Bateman came from the cattle country of Montana 32 years ago. And like many purebred breeders here feel the Rogue valley has the ideal climate for the purebred business. But, like others, he has found small scale ranching must be supported by a full-time business.

Santa Gertrudis might be called the truly modern breed of cattle since it is comparatively recent in origin. Its development dates back to the early 1900s on the famous King Ranch in Texas. There they wanted a breed that could withstand the semi-tropical environment of South Texas and still produce good quality beef under adverse conditions.

The King Ranch worked for 25 years with British breeds before deciding they had to develop cattle which were harder. Cattle of European origin had difficulty in keeping to a standard of excellence under severe environmental conditions, they found. Starting in 1910 they developed a strain of greater hardiness by infusing Brahman

blood. The Brahman had already proven its range hardiness.

Travelling through the southwest, the Batemans saw this breed doing well on cactus and sagebrush and saw one herd foraging in 18 inches of snow.

Such a hardy animal is the Bateman bull. This multiple sire bull which will be three years old in June is from the Flying M ranch in Yerington, Nev. area. The bull, Rogue Warrior, weighed 1,790 pounds and will be three years old in June.

Anyway, after 10 years of experimenting the King Ranch produced a bull called Monkey because of his playfulness. It was of a distinctive red color, of good disposition and exceptionally deep, beefy and heavy for his age. On full feed, he weighed 1,100 pounds at 12 months. He became the foundation sire and all Santa Gertrudis cattle are descended from him. He was born in 1920.

Officially Recognized
In 1940, the Santa Gertrudis was officially recognized by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as a pure breed, the first breed of beef cattle developed in America.

Development of this meat type of animal has continued. Two Santa Gertrudis bulls showed gains of 500 pounds or more at the end of the 140 day Webb county beef cattle rate of gain test on Sept. 17, 1960 at Laredo, Tex. This increased to 14 the number of Santa Gertrudis bulls which have reached or surpassed this figure in official Texas performance tests.

Since 1942 more than 6,000 bulls of all breeds have been tested for rate of gain in official tests in Texas. Santa Gertrudis have participated since 1941. Fourteen bulls of the 16 which reach 500 pounds of gain during the 140 days on test were Santa Gertrudis.

This breed produces the ideal meat market beef which the housewife wants, according to advocates of the breed. It has good red meat, well marbled, but is absent of waste fat.

In March, 1961 Santa Gertrudis beef sold at the Pioneer Supermarket in Los Angeles quickly sold out.

Bateman and his sons invite all those in the valley interested in seeing this comparatively new type of beef animal to drive out Table Rock rd. to the ranch just past the state forestry department headquarters.

87 Consignors Sell 319 Cattle On Active Market

Eight-seven consignors sold 319 cattle, 224 sheep and 23 hogs on a very active market at Midway Auction Friday, according to Owner - Manager Bill Bray.

Hereford steer calves sold in pen lots at \$28.50 to \$29.75. Singles sold up to \$30.25 and lots of calves moved at \$26 to \$28.

Heifer calves sold at \$24.50 to \$26.80. Most penlots of good heifers sold about \$25.

Yearling steers sold for \$24 to \$26. A pen of 725 pound steers brought \$23.10. Medium quality steers sold for \$22 to \$23.

Yearling heifers were scarce, but a few sold from \$22 to \$24.10. Common and medium heifers sold for \$19 to \$22.

Holstein steer calves went up this week with the light end going from \$23 to \$25. Holsteins weighing 500 to 650 pounds sold for \$21.10 to \$22.70. A pen of 715 pound steers brought \$21.10 to \$22.70.

A pen of Holstein heifers weighing over 500 pounds sold for \$20.70 and two penlots of Jersey and Guernsey heifers went from \$17.40 to \$18.20, showing a new interest in good quality dairy heifers.

Cows and calves were about steady at \$215 to \$221 per head on the better ones and \$160 to \$205 per pair on the plainer kind.

Springer cows sold from \$165 to \$195 per head and a pen of good first calf springer heifers brought \$176 per head.

A few good to choice fed steers sold from \$23 to \$24.60 and veal calves brought from \$24 to \$26.25. No real choice calves were offered.

Bulls sold for \$21.10 and \$21.50 on the two good, big bulls and \$17 to \$20 on some light, poor grade bulls.

Slaughter cows held steady another week. Commercial cows sold for \$18.20 to \$19. Utility cows sold for \$15 to \$17.70, cutters brought \$13.50 to \$15 and canners and light cutters sold for \$10 to \$13.25. A few shells and low-yielding canners went down to \$8.50 to \$9.50.

No fat hogs were in the sale. Fat sows sold for \$14.10 to \$14.40. Weaners brought \$8 to \$10 per head.

Old crop lambs sold from \$13.90 to \$14.90. A pen of 72 yearling wethers brought \$13.90 and a pen of 38 aged ewes with lambs sold for \$13.25 per head.

Fruit Growers Reveal Figures On Conversion

The following statement was written by Don Roof, of Root Packing company, Medford, and public relations chairman of the Jackson County Fruit Growers League. League directors have approved the statement.

Members of the Fruit Growers League of Jackson County today issued figures that indicate they are ahead of their voluntary agreement to convert within five years all orchard heaters to the approved type.

With two years of the conversion program behind them, 79 per cent of the heaters in the valley are of the approved type. This compares with 57 per cent in 1959. The fruit growers are sure at the end of the conversion period virtually all of the open type heaters will be eliminated.

A census of orchard heaters indicate there are now 132,776 heaters of all types on 6,000 acres of which 105,000 are of the approved type. In 1959 there were 107,65 heaters of all types on 5,000 acres of which 60,655 were of the approved type.

Conversion Expensive
This conversion has cost the local fruit growers many thousands of dollars in years that have been far from prosperous. The net effect will not be complete elimination of smoke. There can be no effective orchard protection without some smoke. However, the approved type will reduce the quantity of smoke

materially, and that remaining will be at a tolerable level.

In the valley's annual spring battle to protect the world famous pear crop against killing frosts, the growers employ 1,000 part-time men and students who earn a total of \$73,000. In a general firing period, total costs run \$20,000 to \$25,000 per hour. During an average season heating is necessary eleven times, varying from light scattered heating to the less often general heating.

The proof of the necessity of heating may be demonstrated best by the 1954 season. That year 50 per cent of the valley's crop was frozen from the trees. On those pears killed by frost the loss to the valley was \$1,375,000 on wages alone. In addition were supplies and equipment not purchased to process the lost crop.

The growers, who successfully heated that year produced 10 boxes of marketable pears for every heater fired. This accounted for virtually every one of the 1,509,000 boxes produced in 1954.

When one realizes the pear crop represents fresh dollars which will come into the valley and change hands five times before leaving the economic import to people not directly employed by the fruit industry is apparent.

Frozen pears are a complete economic loss to all concerned and almost every person who earns his living in the valley is concerned.

Gardening Tips

By JOHN W. McLOUGHLIN
Garden Peonies

Stake any weak-stemmed peony plants when they attain a growth of 15 inches. Staking prevents the weight of the large double flowered types from bending the stems to the ground.

You may use forked branches to prop up the heavy large flowered types, or you may circle the plant with a hoop of wire or string connected to three or four stakes. With either method, the stakes should be as inconspicuous as possible.

Flowers
For indoor flower arrangements, cut peony flowers just as the buds are about to open and the petals show color. The flowers will continue to develop to their full size and color. When cutting, leave a portion of the stem with three or four leaves on the plant to manufacture food.

The flowers of certain varieties will fade in the garden because of too much sunlight. Protect these varieties by shading them with cheesecloth or other material.

Culture
Peonies grown for exhibition should be disbudded early in the season. Allow one bud to develop on a stem. Remove the developing seed pod and flower stalk when the flowers have faded. When the frost has killed the foliage, cut off all stems close to the ground and burn them.

The soil about the plants should be kept thoroughly cultivated or well mulched during the growing season.

Division
Divide the clumps of old established plantings if they fail to flower satisfactorily. Divide and transplant the clumps in September or October. Divide large clumps of roots into sections so that there are at least three buds on each clump of roots. These clumps should provide flowering plants the next season.

Planting
Plant new plants as soon as you receive them from the nursery in September or October. Dig the hole large enough to allow the roots to spread out as they naturally grow. Tamp the soil in the bottom of the hole so the roots will not settle below the desired depth.

Set the roots so the buds of each stem are no deeper than two inches below the soil surface. If you bury these buds with more than two inches of soil, the plants will not be thrifty and may fail to bloom. For best results, be sure to plant only strong, healthy roots.

Fertilization
Since peonies are gross feeders, they respond well to liberal fertilization. As early

SOMETHING AMISS
Indianapolis, Ind. — The New York Central freight train en route to Cleveland, Ohio, was several miles out of the station when crewmembers noticed something amiss. A backward glance by the engineer confirmed the suspicion. Seventy-one cars and the caboose had been left in Indianapolis.

Small Run Seen On Active Market At Phoenix Yard

Phoenix — Cattle saleable Saturday totaled 166 head, according to Bob Bever, manager of Rogue Valley Auction Yard.

A small run of cattle on

a very active market was noted. All classes of cattle sold at \$1 to \$2 higher. Baby calves in the Hereford class sold strong with one pen lot Holstein baby calves sold at \$25 to \$33 per head.

Guernsey and Jersey calves sold at \$8 to \$14 per head. Whiteface steer calves were in small supply, but the light calves in the 400 to 500 class sold at \$27.30 to \$30.70 per hundredweight.

Whiteface heifer calves sold strong with one pen lot selling at \$27.40 per hundredweight. Other singles sold at \$25.80 to \$27 per hundredweight.

Whiteface yearling steers sold strong, with 500 to 700 pound steers selling at \$24.75 to \$27.10 per hundredweight. One pen of 650 pound heifers sold at \$24.80 per hundredweight. One pen of 740 pound heifers sold at \$22.70 per hundredweight. Light yearling heifers brought \$24.80 in the 500 to 550 pound class.

Holstein Steers
Holstein steers sold at steady prices with no light Holsteins in the offering, but 650 to 800 pound Holstein steers selling at \$21.75 to \$22.30. One pen of light Holstein steers weighing 320 pounds sold at \$87.50 per head.

Slaughter cattle were strong. One load of feeder young cows sold at \$19.50 to \$20.80. The fat older cows fed the same way sold at \$18.30 to \$19.25.

Holstein utility cows sold at \$15.50 to \$16.70. Canner and cutter cows sold at \$12.50 to \$14.60.

The veal market was \$2 higher than the week before. One lot of heavy calves fed with the above cows sold at \$27.30 to \$29.50. All of these calves weighed from 400 to 550 pounds.

"We look for a smaller marketing on cattle for the next 60 days with prices which might stay good through May. If you have cattle to sell, we would suggest that you sell them at this time," Bever advised.

Insecticide Tips Given By Agent

By DON BERRY
County Agent

More and more home gardeners are applying insecticides to their soils before planting them to control soil insects.

Bugs like wire worms, cucumber beetle larvae, white grubs and other soil inhabiting pests can be controlled for two years or longer by simply applying an insecticide to the soil previous to working up the garden in the spring. In addition, plant injury from root maggots which attack radishes, turnips, cabbage and seed corn will be reduced or eliminated.

It is important that the insecticides be mixed thoroughly with the soil to a depth of four to six inches. A rototiller is excellent but mixing with a disc or by hand is also satisfactory if thorough mixing is obtained. Any one of the following materials may be used: Aldrin, Dieldrin or Heptachlor.

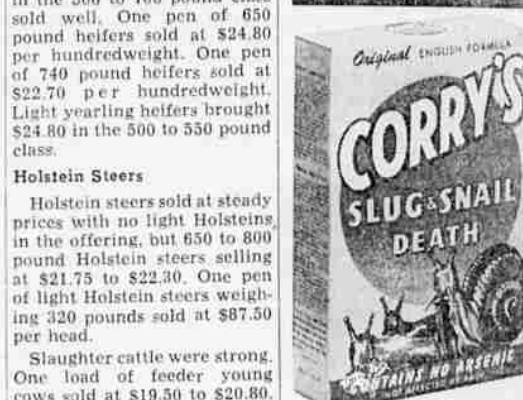
Apply one quarter pound of actual insecticide to each 1,000 square feet. For example, 4 1/2 pounds of 5 per cent granular or one pint of emulsified concentrate in five to ten gallons of water may be applied for each 1,000 square feet of soil to be treated. Do not overdose since plant injury could be caused by excessive amount of insecticide in the soil.

This treatment would also be beneficial prior to setting out strawberry beds and cane berry patches as well as flower beds, especially those which contain primroses, rhododendrons and begonias, for controlling strawberry root weevil and wire worms.

QUITS CUBA GROUP

Miami — Cuban ex-President Carlos Hevia resigned Monday night from the Revolutionary Council headed by Dr. Jose Miró Cardona, saying he "can do more for the Cuban cause outside of the organization." Hevia was the president of Cuba for a brief period in 1933.

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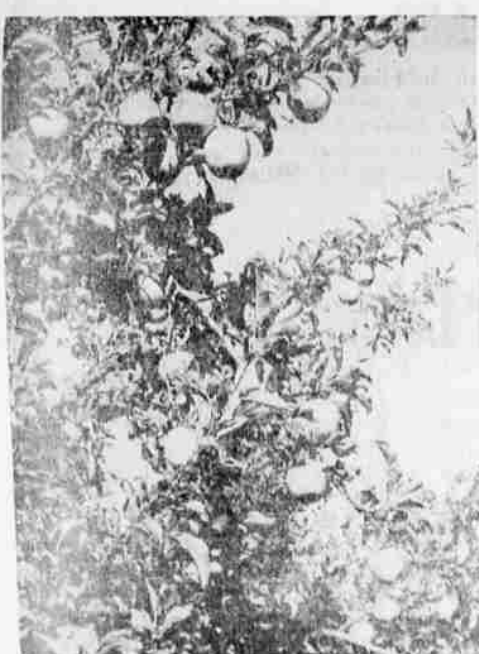


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