

Dual-Grading Should Stop, Big Feeder Tells Stockmen

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Yreka—Cattlemen must be careful to see they aren't "permanently" saddled with dual grading, D. E. Alexander, Napa, Calif., feed lot operator and California's Cattleman of the Year, told approximately 200 people attending the annual Siskiyou County Cattlemen's dinner Friday night in Yreka.

"Our problem is how to get the business back into our hands. It's serious! Who is to get the benefit from dual grading and what benefit is there to be had?" queried the owner of one of California's most efficient feed lot operations.

"We are given dual grad-

ing on an experimental basis. And that (experimental) year ends July 1, 1963. It will take the U.S. Department of Agriculture probably six months in which to evaluate the results. We must be sure it doesn't go longer than that or we may be stuck with it permanently," he warned.

"Dual grading is not acceptable to the chain stores. If not to them, then who? They handle almost all retail meat sales. The public wants quality meat which they get in California the year around!" the feed lot operator emphasized.

Dual grading is extra expense to the packer since it takes more time. That expense is passed on to the ultimate consumer.

Dual grading was endorsed during the meeting of the American Cattlemen's association by one of the smallest turnouts; approximately 60 people voted for the proposal. This was not representative of the industry, Alexander said.

"This has been under study a good many years. It has not changed the quality grade," the prominent cattlemen said. "In establishing dual grade the USDA extracted one word—conformation. It opens the doors to multiplying cattle numbers and not to breeding. And this means primarily southern cattle. Non-descript cattle of the many crossbreeds inferior in quality yet which have a fair cut out value according to the new government formula."

This formula is based on the measurement of the rib eye, plus thickness of fat over the rib eye and the amount of fat in the channel such as kidney fat, etc., he explained.

"Safeway will not buy red ink cattle unless it meets the specifications under the blue stamp. They prefer medium to middle grade," Alexander pointed out.

Carcass Tests

Carcass tests at the Cow Palace (San Francisco) did show that the carcass was split at the 12th rib a 50-50 distribution of weight on front and hind quarters revealed the highest cut out value. This is not new to packers, the cattle feeder pointed out.

The public wants flavor and juicy meat. Only fat around the meat can provide this, he indicated. During a recent Swift Meat company tour an A&P chain store buyer lectured Alexander on feeders turning out cattle with too much fat resulting in too much trim and waste.

"I asked him if he thought the consumer could get the meat that they wanted without trim," Alexander related. "He answered that he gets meat requiring 21 per cent fat and bone trim and should get by with 20 per cent."

"In other words, these people are trying to get the packer to absorb the trim," Alexander added.

"Meat is priced according to the supply we are able to get on the market. There is no substitute in the beef business for good breeding. It shows up under dual grading and carcass contests," he pointed out.

"One type puts fat on the outside and other breeds and families tend to marble their meat. We have to figure a way to find these latter animals. Those are the cattle we are going to want!"

"Some types of cattle are tremendous feeders. Another group show a terrible record of feed inefficiency. Whether cattle have a conversion rate of pounds of gain for every pound of feed or 2.2 to 1 ratio is the difference in pounds of gain costs of 18 to 19 cents to 32 cents. When you are selling at 36 cents you can go broke on the dif-

ference," the feeder explained.

The southern type of cattle don't fit in the northern part of California. Southern crosses are used in Imperial Valley and other hot, dry parts of the state where the feeder can make more money on them due to climatic conditions, he noted.

"When I visited Colorado recently I learned in this state, which raises some of the finest commercial herds, nearly one million head of imported cattle are fed in that state each year. The good Colorado commercial stock go east," he said.

California is the first state in the nation in annual income from agriculture. Seventy per cent of all labor in the state is dependent on agriculture, Alexander said.

California is the second largest cattle feeding state and slaughters more cattle than any other state. There are 600 feed lots in California. Seventy-six per cent of all the cattle finished in California come from 73 feed lots.

"Some peculiarities of the feeder business is that feeders from Texas come to California to be fed Texas grain and are shipped back to Texas. We now have a problem of finding enough feeder cattle for California lots," the feed lot operator said.

California can absorb 1,750,000 feeder cattle a year. A total of 1 1/4 million are imported into California with 70 per cent of these finished out in California and 30 per cent come in for slaughter, Alexander said.

"The problem confronting the farmer is inventory supply," he explained. "We ship cattle to the east from California because of the tremendous feed supply there. Here the feed supply is limited. A build-up of 1 million to 1 1/2 million can be absorbed. Our problem is not to expand too much and try to live within an area of consumption," the top rated feeder said.

Feed Record Numbers

As of Jan. 1, 1931, California had fed 57,000 head of cattle for the year. As of Oct. 1 this year it has fed 1 million head. This shows the public is demanding choice grade cattle, Alexander pointed out.

"There are no prime grade meat markets on the coast. Those are in the east and north Atlantic areas, particularly Boston where they have built up a preference of big, fat, long-fed beef cattle fed 12 months in the mid-west. But they are changing in Illinois to the California system."

The public is educated to taste and quality of well-bred and well-fed beef. We can absorb only a limited amount of A grade meat. The problem in Napa is that when we run too high to good grade meat and not high enough on choice grade we have trouble moving cattle," Alexander explained.

"The cattle industry is about the last free enterprise on the frontier. We ask for no government support—ask only the right to go broke!" he said.

Crater High FFA Soil Judging Teams Get Awards

Lincoln county 4-H club members and Future Farmers of America proved that they really know their soils in the sixth annual Oregon soil judging contest at Coburg Wednesday. The event opened the 14th annual meeting of the State Association of soil conservation districts which continued through Friday in Eugene.

Teams from Lincoln county swept top honors in both 4-H and FFA divisions. In addition, Mrs. Leona Kasner, Burnt Woods, also in Lincoln county, was named the top winner among adult women in the contest.

The Lincoln county 4-H team of Jim Kasner and Gene Rhoades, both of Burnt Woods, and Rosemary Brown, Agate Beach, was first in their division. In FFA team judging, the Edenville high school team of Mike Oliver, Dave Nichols and Terry Rhoades was first.

Martha Doherty, Heppner high school senior, was first in 4-H individual competition. In FFA individual judging, winners, in order, were Paul Thayer, St. Helens; Ben Thompson, Roseburg, and Dennis Ray, Crater high of Central Point.

Other top FFA team efforts were St. Helens, second; Sherman county, third; Siletz, fourth, and Roseburg, fifth.

In individual competition among FFA instructors, first place went to Curt Loewen, Roseburg; second to Bill Sawyer, St. Helens, and third to Darrell Shepherd, Crater.

Randall Grimes, Harrisburg, chairman of the state soil conservation committee, was in charge of the contest and presented the awards.

Art King, Oregon State University extension soils specialist, who coordinates the annual event, explained to the some 100 contestants that knowing how to judge soil is important in proper soil management and cropping practices.

So far, the amount of strontium 90 or any other radioactive element being found in any food does not warrant avoiding any particular food, or trying to select food items on the basis of radioactive content.

Barley continues to be the leading field seed crop under certification in North Dakota. Of the 1961 crop, 161,394 bushels were tagged and sealed. Durum and flax continue in second and third place.

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Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Nov. 16 to 22 is Farm-City Week. This is the time when the merchant should ask himself: Am I delivering the goods and services the farmers need and want? And the farmers: Have I convinced the city people, the grocerymen, clothing salesmen and drycleaners how important I am to his economy or business? Do I know about all the goods and services I can get in the city?

Under services, we include government services. Comparatively few people know what the inside of the courthouse looks like. And most of those who do are the ones who angrily stamp in to pay their taxes.

Agriculture developed and populated this valley and is No. 2 income producer here and in Oregon as a whole.

Oregon forests produced \$1.2 billion in 1960, farms \$800 million in 1961, tourists \$186 million in 1961, mines \$34.4 million in 1960, and fisheries \$15 1/2 million in 1960.

Cash receipts from farm marketings in 1961 totaled \$413 million. This includes the value of crops put under government loan. One out of every two dollars taken in by Oregon's farmers comes from out-of-state sales.

Farming accounts for about one out of every five dollars spent at retail in the state.

In producing his crops the farmer paid \$342 million. About half of this operating expense consisted of hired labor, feed, and repairs. Farmers spend each year more than \$50 million for labor, another \$90 million for seed, feed, livestock, and fertilizer.

Every time you buy a cellophane wrapped package of tomatoes and spinach you pay a little more than you do for placing those vegetables in the sack. "Oven-ready" is now the rule, not the exception. When was the last time you cut up your own fryer, for instance?

What share of the consumer's dollar does the farmer receive? He gets 66 cents for every dollar spent for eggs, 56 cents for beef, 48 cents for lamb, 53 cents for pork, 71 cents for butter, 50 cents for chickens, 41 cents for cheese, 43 cents for fluid milk, 33 cents for white flour, 10 cents for corn flakes, 16 cents for canned tomatoes, 17 cents for canned peaches, 14 cents for white bread and so on down the line.

The American farmer is still way out in front in the food production race compared to Russia and the Russian satellite countries. Half as many U. S. agricultural workers put out 50 per cent more farm products compared to 1940.

This is reflected in the portion of income spent by U. S. consumers for food compared to other countries. The U. S. spends 19.7 per cent of disposable income for food, English and French 30 per cent, Japanese 42 per cent, West Germans 45 per cent and the Russians 56 per cent.

So, thanks to the farmer, Americans are eating better than ever before for less money.

693 Cattle Sold At Midway Yard; Market Steady

A total of 110 consignors sold 693 cattle, 19 hogs and 13 sheep at the regular Friday, Nov. 9, sale at Midway Auction yard, according to Owner-Manager Bill Bray.

"The market was active, fairly steady except for slaughter cows which were lower," Bray said.

Good steer calves sold for \$26.50 to \$27.80. Medium calves went out at \$24 to \$26. Calves weighing 500 to 550 pounds sold from \$26 to \$26.60. Good heifer calves sold for \$24 to \$25. Medium heifers went out at \$22 to \$24.

Good yearling steers sold for \$23.50 to \$25.10. Medium steers sold for \$22 to \$23.

Good yearling heifers sold for \$20 to \$22.50. Medium heifers went out at \$18 to \$20. Holstein steer calves sold for \$19 to \$21.50. Yearling Holstein steers went out at \$18 to \$22.50. Good cow and calf pairs sold for \$200 to \$222.50. Stock cows sold for \$150 to \$175 per head, except on a pen of 13 real good cows which sold for \$210 per head.

The registered cows sold from \$250 to \$345 per head. Most of them went just under \$300. Their heifer calves sold from \$125 to \$165 per head and the bull calves went out at \$160 to \$175 per head.

Good young fat cows sold from \$17 to \$17.50. Utility cows sold for \$13.50 to \$13.50. Cutters went out at \$12 to \$13.50 and canners from \$8 to \$11.50. A few very thin, shelly cows were down to 50 per hundredweight.

There will be a sale as usual this coming Friday, but there will not be a sale at Midway on Friday, Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving, Bray said.

"It is just too hard to get buyers to come for a sale the day after Thanksgiving, so I think it would be better to skip a week and come back the following week with another big one. That way we are sure we can get lots of buyers."

"So remember! No sale Thanksgiving week! A big feeder sale Friday, the 30th!" Bray reminded.

Ranchers should allow between 20 and 30 pounds of fall per year for every head of cattle on range.

Fertilizer Plan Set for Alfalfa

Yreka—The recommended fertilization program for alfalfa is about the same for Siskiyou county farmers as last year, according to David West, Siskiyou county farm advisor for crops.

Fall and early winter applications of the following fertilizers is recommended:

For phosphorus deficiency, 300 to 400 pounds of single superphosphate as an initial application with 150 to 200 pounds applied every year (or 300 to 400 pounds every other year.)

For sulfur deficiency, 100 pounds per acre agricultural sulfur or 400 pounds gypsum per acre.

Single superphosphate contains about 12 per cent sulfur. If the recommended rates of single superphosphate are used, sulfur deficiency will probably not be a factor.

Boron deficiency, ten pounds of actual boron per acre in Shasta and Scott valleys. Three to five pounds actual boron in Butte valley.

Each ton of alfalfa contains about 10 pounds of P2O5 and 4.5 pounds of sulfur.

Elections Planned For ASC Officials

Community elections of committees for the ASC program will be held by mail Dec. 7, 1962 through the Jackson county office.

Petitions signed by 10 or more eligible voters nominating persons for membership in the community committee will be received at the county office, Jackson county courthouse, Medford, until Nov. 16, 1962. Persons so nominated will be included in the slate of nominees if found willing to serve and are eligible.

If a person nominated by petitions is found ineligible he will be notified of such determination prior to completion of the slate of nominees and he may appeal to the county committee.

The community committee shall make such additional nominations as are required.



ALL-STARS — Sandra Lee Farley of the Fort Jones, Calif., 4-H club was named the Siskiyou county 4-H All-Star girl at Achievement Day ceremonies in Yreka, Calif., Saturday, Nov. 10. David Sleep, Greenhorn 4-H club member, was named Siskiyou county 4-H All-Star Boy Nov. 10.

Boy, Girl All-Stars In Siskiyou 4-H

By WILLIAM RUDDIMAN
Siskiyou County Farm Advisor

Sandra Farley, Fort Jones 4-H club, and David Sleep, Greenhorn 4-H club, were named Siskiyou County 4-H

Rogue Valley Sells 1,383 Cattle In Recent Sales

Phoenix—A total of 938 head of cattle were sold at the Rogue Valley Auction yard Thursday during the Jackson County Stockmen's association feeder sale, reported Yard Manager Bob Bever.

"At the feeder sale the market was very active on all classes of cattle," Bever said.

The top on steer calves was \$31.50 for 550 pound black calf going to FFA boy. Other club calves sold at \$30 to \$31. Top calves in pen lots went to California buyers at \$28 to \$29.50.

The Carp ranch, Ashland, sold 41 head of 445 pound steer calves at \$28.90. Henry Owens, White City, sold 38 head of whiteface steers weighing 465 pounds at \$28.40. Reg Imperatrice, Lake Creek Cattle company, sold 15 black steers weighing 300 pounds at \$29.40. All steer calves sold at \$28 to \$29.50.

Heifer calves sold at \$23.50 to a top of \$26.10. The big buyer of the heifer calves shipped them to the midwest.

Young springer stock sold at \$192 to \$205 per head. Old springer calves sold at \$145 to \$165 per head. Cows with small calves sold at \$200 to \$225 per pair.

Slaughter cows sold well with utility cows selling at \$13.60 to \$17.70. Yellow cows sold at \$12 to \$13.40. A few shelly cows sold down to \$10.

The next feeder sale will be Dec. 4 at the Rogue Valley Livestock, Inc., yard, in Phoenix.

A special all breed sale will be held at this yard on Nov. 24. All classes of cattle will be sold at this sale, Bever said.

Yearling steers were the high-light of the regular Saturday sale.

Steers weighing 500 to 600 pounds sold at \$23.50 to \$27.30.

Bill Welch, Indian Lake ranch, sold 10 light yearling steers weighing 504 pounds at \$27.40. Steers weighing 540 pounds at \$26.10. Heavy yearling steers in the 700 to 800 pound class sold at \$24.70 to \$25.40.

Fritz Offenbacher, Applegate, sold one pen of 10 yearling steers weighing 780 pounds at \$25.50. Yearling heifers sold at \$22.50 to \$23.50. One pen of heavy heifers weighing 800 pounds sold at \$21.60.

400 Cattle Sold

A total of 400 cattle were sold at the Saturday sale.

The market was about the same as Thursday's feeder sale, with many buyers staying over. One consignment of 20 head of light yearlings from Table Top Hereford ranch weighed 502 pounds and sold at \$28.70.

Gardening Tips

By JOHN W. McLOUGHLIN
County Extension Agent

Tree Planting

Before you plant a tree on the home grounds, consider the purpose the tree is to serve. Do you want the tree to frame the house or to give shade to some portion of the house. Perhaps you may want to screen an objectionable view.

If you want to frame your house, the ideal location is usually somewhere along a line extending from each corner of the house. The distance the tree is planted from the house will depend upon the average diameter of a full grown tree of species selected. Locate the tree at a distance equal to one-half the diameter of the tree when mature. This will assure you against damage to the house by the movement of the branches.

Should this location fall on a drive, walk or the neighbor's property, move the tree location to the nearest unpaved area on your property. If this location is too near a building, use a smaller tree.

Remember when locating a tree to shade some portion of the house that the angle at which the sun's rays strike the house differs in winter and summer. If the tree is to shade an outdoor patio, determine what time of day the patio will be used to the greatest extent. It will then be a simple matter to decide upon the best location for the tree.

When screening an objectionable view, it is usually desirable to locate the trees as close to the property line as possible. This will avoid the barrier of trees dividing the lawn into two sections.

If you plan on planting a street tree and live within the Medford city limits, consult the Medford Street Tree Planning commission. This way you can find out the selected tree species for your street.

Tree Spacing

Trees should seldom be planted so close together that the branches of one tree touch the branches of another when both trees are full grown. Such close spacing would give too much of a shut-in effect to the landscape design.

One good "rule of thumb" to use is that one large tree such as thornless Honeylocust for every 100 feet square, (10,000 square feet) is adequate. Small trees such as Flowering Dogwood may be used in addition to the large trees.

An exception to the above suggestions concerning the spacing of trees is where the trees are to be used as screens. In this case, it is easily seen that they should be planted close enough together so that their branches will intermingle. This will create a dense screen of continuous effect for as great a distance as the screen is desired.

Wafer Machine Tried in Woodland

Yreka—The pull-type wafer machine put out by Cal-Cube was given its first test in summer near Woodland, Calif., according to Sedg Nelson, Siskiyou county farm advisor for livestock.

The machine acts as if it has a capacity of nearly four tons per hour. The hay was 64 per cent in moisture and came out of the machine at 12.9 per cent moisture.

John Dobbie, University of California agricultural engineer, says cows spend more time eating baled hay and consume less as compared to wafered hay.

Stanchion-fed cows consumed 5.2 pounds more per day of cubed hay and 6.7 pounds more per day when fed free choice. In milk production, 1.8 pounds of 4 per cent fat corrected milk can be credited to 5.2 pounds of hay per day.

Calcium and phosphorus are lacking in livestock rations throughout the West. Supplement feeds with bonemeal and salt mixes or feed phosphorus salt blocks.

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