

Phone Call Starts Series Of Cattle Range Sessions

BY JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

One night last March the telephone rang at the home of the stockmen's association secretary. "Hello, say we have a very serious problem on this range allotment business. I just heard the forest service is going to cut the Rancharia range allotment 66 per cent over a period of years. The fellows in the Big Butte (Cattle and Horse Raisers) association are real mad about it. "Get on the phone and tell everybody we are going to have an association directors' meeting Thursday night to plan what we are going to do will you? Better put it on TV and radio, too!" That morning Forest Service men preparing for a routine day heard the announcement on radio. Within minutes after their arrival at the office of the Rogue River National Forest, Supervisor Carol Brown called a special meeting of some personnel.

What was said at that meeting the cattlemen and their friends don't know. But it must have been straight to the point. **Attends Meeting** Ralph Wiese, range officer, of the Rogue River National Forest, was at the directors' meeting with his home-made "fire extinguisher" of personal charm and direct answers. Soon the issue melted down to who said what, when and how? A good example of how the stockmen felt the petition from the Big Butte Cattle and Horse Raisers Association: "The Forest Service proposes to cut the permits on the Rancharia allotment 66 per cent over a 10-year period, 10 per cent per year for five years and 4 per cent for four years. "An analysis shows 6,000 acres of primary grazing land, 3,000 acres of secondary grazing lands, and 52,000 acres unsuitable for grazing. Total is 63,000 acres. About 23,000 acres were deleted from the

allotment without the knowledge or approval of the association members." The 75,000 acres classified as unsuitable for grazing included what should be primary grazing area, the petition said. "The proposed per cent cut or any part of it poses a serious economic problem to every member of the association in a time when the net income from each cow is less and less each year. No member can afford to run less cattle than at present and still stay in business." Wiese emphasized that Thursday night that no cuts are definite yet since all allotments must be reviewed. This may be ready by May, otherwise this summer, he said. Although the range allotments will be prime subject for discussion at the mid-April stockmen's meeting, the review will not be done by then, he said. **Several Meetings Held** Later that spring several district meetings were held. The cattlemen were told at each one that the allotment cuts were merely proposals, but something had to be done soon to preserve the range which showed signs of deterioration. Members of the range advisory board added some members by appointment by Association President Leroy Olfenbacher and met with Supervisor Brown. They were told there, also that the range cuts would be made gradually. Final decisions were to be made last summer. Now, the stockmen have been informed that the plans would be approved later this year. Meanwhile, the Applegate Stockmen's association met Nov. 28 to discuss their problems with the newly elected legislators and an embattled member of the forest service representing their area. Testifying one by one, representatives of each Applegate range area told of proposed cuts ranging in allotment per cent of cut (either AUM or head) from 34 to 75. One rancher was told he would have to take his cattle off the range starting next spring. Last spring the cattlemen had been urged to work out range improvement plans. Rancher man-hours and money for what ever government funds were available. The forest service contribution range from \$400 to \$19,100 and the expected rancher contributions from \$400 to \$9,955. Contribution offered in man-hours from the forest service was 64 to 203 hours and expected from the rancher 171 to 318 hours. **Feel Strongly** The Applegate stockmen feel strongly that it is unfair to expect more money and man-hour contributions in range improvement when they are facing a severe range allotment cut. Total cost to restore the range, based upon forest service proposals is \$66,495 for the forest service and \$46,879 for permittees or the cattlemen. Presenting its side the forest service stated in a published statement: "Over a period of years forest service personnel have become concerned about erosion, particularly in the Siskiyou portion of the forest. The quartz-diorite and mica schist types of soils are very susceptible to erosion and are very thin soils. Irreparable damage can easily be done. "The permittees are mostly small operators, running from 50 to 150 head of cattle. Many run less than 100. The cattle are turned loose in the spring and gathered in the fall. Very little riding or salting are done. In fact, there is not a hired rider operating in the entire forest. Consequently, permittee management is poor. "This coupled with desultory management activity by the forest service for many years presents a problem. The forest service is faced with the tradition of stockmen running cattle as they pleased and the fact that erosion of soil and range deterioration have become serious. In order to protect the soil resource it is necessary to adjust the numbers of permitted cattle to the carrying capacity of the range. **Summing Up** "Summing up, the following must be considered: "After many years the range now suffers from erosion and deterioration. "The range analysis was made by a qualified range technician following the standards set up by the division of research. "The fact that cattle come off the range fat is no criterion of range condition nor does it take into account damage to the resource. "The Forest Service realizes that this has a severe impact on the permittees but it cannot permit the continued destruction of a resource belonging to all the people."

Farm & Garden Ashland Cattleman In New Program

Donald Nichols, Ashland Hereford breeder, has reported entering five steer calves sired by DN Mark Donald 2 in the feedlot and carcass evaluation program sponsored by the American Hereford association. The calves, all about six months old, were taken to Beef City, Inc., Stanfield, Ore. There they joined other steers and heifers from throughout Oregon and Washington in a herd sire evaluation test which will produce records showing the animals' feedlot performance (rate of gain and efficiency of gain); and its carcass value. The steers will be slaughtered at a 1,000 pound weight by Armour and Company, Portland. Carcass value is based on: (1) dressing per cent, (2) ribeye area and square inches, (3) ribeye area per cubic weight of carcass, (4) fat thickness per carcass cubic weight, (5) predicted carcass cutability, (6) USDA grade, (7) marbling score, (8) per cent of trimmed round, (9) per cent kidney and (10) per cent of hide. **Sure-Fire Evaluation** These records are aimed at giving the cattleman a sure-fire system for singling out superior Hereford sires that will produce the red meat carcass desired by feedlot operators, packers and housewives. Nichols reports that DN Mark Donald 2 is the youngest herd sire in use at his ranch at this time. The steers that went to Beef City, Inc. were from the bull's first calf crop. Another group of calves will go to Beef City for simi-

lar testing next year. By the time Nichols has two-year-old range-ready bulls for sale from this herd sire he will also have the feedlot and carcass evaluation records to go with the bulls. The calves went on feed the first of November. Although regular progress reports are received, the final report won't come until after they are slaughtered. AHA's B. C. Snidow who is in charge of the program, estimated in October that over 150 breeders will participate this year and approximately 200 bulls will be represented by complete or partial progeny groups in the first run of the testing program started this year. The program involves 17 feedlots and 16 meat packing firms in the U. S. As a contributing breeder, Nichols had to agree to deliver at least eight calves by a particular sire within a two-year period to the specified feedlot or to one of his choice. He had to surgically castrate steer calves while they were within 150 days of age, tattoo, and dehorn each calf unless naturally polled. He was required to deliver calves to the feedlot not less than 15 days prior to the official feeding test starting date. Calves must be between six and nine months of age. Nichols also had to agree to pay the feedlot operator on basis of total pounds gained while in his lot at the previously determined rate per pound or on the basis of yardage and cost per day, whichever is negotiated by the association.

Panel Talks Set As ODA Feature Richard Westberg, Ashland, manager of Coordinated Milk Sales, will speak at the Oregon Dairymen's association meeting in the Hotel Marion at Salem Jan. 7-8. Westberg will speak on a panel, "What Oregon's Dairy Industry Should Do." Appearing on the same panel with him will be Gordon Coleman, district manager of the Medo-Land Creamery, Eugene. Informed observers expect this to be the most interesting discussion during the two-day meeting. Also on the panel will be Dr. J. C. Miller, head of the animal science department, Oregon State university; Sig Hurwaldt, manager of the McMinnville cooperative creamery; Frank Rood, president of the Oregon Dairy association; Wendell Goss, president of Western Farms; and Robert Fish, Echo Spring Dairy, Eugene. **Committee Meetings** Committee meetings to be held Jan. 7 include resolution and legislation, herd health, Dairy Herd Improvement association, and dairy marketing and promotion. Oregon Dairy Council reports will be held Jan. 8, plus talks from representatives of the Oregon Dairy Products commission. Other talks include: "SNF - Protein - TNT," by Dr. G. A. Richardson, professor of food and science technology and chemistry, Oregon State university; "The Why and How of Selling," by Dr. H. F. Holland, professor of agricultural economics; the Oregon Beef Council reported by Don Oatensen, executive secretary; "Cooperating To Do A Job," by the western regional di-

rector of the American Dairy association. **Fruit Processing Firms Now Fewer** Corvallis-Fruit and vegetable processing in Oregon-an \$88 million annual business-is caught up in the general business trend of bigger but fewer firms, according to a study reported by Oregon State university. Pacific Northwest fruit and vegetable canning plants, for example, increased their total packout by about 30 per cent from 1950 to 1960, even though the number of plants decreased by more than 40 per cent during the same time. Seven firms attempted to enter the canning business in the area from 1950 to 1960, but six of these failed and one converted its operation to freezing. Dr. Gerald E. Korzan, OSU Agricultural Experiment Station economist, noted in the study. Dr. Korzan said implications of the trend to Oregon's economy are emphasized by the fact that annual payrolls in Oregon processing plants alone total more than \$25 million. Increased packout is tied directly to west coast population increases, the study shows, with sales decreasing in eastern markets but increasing sharply in the west. During the past 10 years, the population of Oregon, Washington and California has increased more than 40 per cent, contrasted with about 18 per cent increase in total U.S. population.

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Pear and Peach Programs Set For Jan. 28-29

The annual pear and peach programs conducted by the Jackson county extension service will be held Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 28 and 29, according to C. B. Cordy, Jackson county horticultural agent and Don Berry, county extension agent. Starting time is 1:15 p.m. in the extension service auditorium. Cordy is chairman of the pear program and Berry of the peach program. **Pear Program** The pear program includes talks by Pete Westgard, entomologist, Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station, on pear pest control - scales and mites; by Cordy on improving fruit size; by Dr. Korzan, agricultural economist, Oregon State university, on pear acreage and production trends and the effect of new types of pears; by Virgil Freed, OSU agricultural chemist, on pesticide residues; by L. D. McNelly, Santa Clara county farm advisor on rehabilitation of declining pear trees; and by Berry on the 1963 spray program. **Peach Program** The peach program will include talks by Mel Westwood, OSU horticulturist on prediction of peach harvest sizes; by Dr. Korzan on planting trends of fresh peaches, Western United States; by Bob Stebbins, OSU extension horticulturist, on mechanical thinning and harvesting; by Art Retan, Butte county farm advisor on concentrate spraying; by Dr. Virgil Freed, OSU agricultural chemist on insect resistance to chemicals; by Pete Westgard on peach insect pests (mites and twig borers); and by Berry on the 1963 spray program.

At least some feeders oppose the new system. They claim it tends to encourage production of more lower quality cattle and a trend away from the pure-breds since conformity, and fat is not considered under the new dual-grading. But, fat is needed to produce high quality meat flavor, the feeders argue. And then there is the Common Market threat. If England does finally decide to join and France continues to object to admittance of the British Commonwealth nations with England, then we may see a lot of New Zealand and Australian beef here. The Commonwealth tariff barriers which would open to enclose England would tend to shut out Commonwealth beef. This would force the more cheaply produced beef into our markets to compete with U.S. beef. The Independent Egg Producers' council is trying to do something about the low price on eggs by promoting local consumption of local eggs. Local egg prices have remained about normal, perhaps a little lower throughout 1962. And Rogue valley producers have had to compete with eggs shipped in mainly from California, too, which can be produced less expensively on the large California poultry farms and thus sell at lower prices. Price-wise the Rogue valley pear producers have their problems, too. Coric, Bosc and Bartletts all took a beating price-wise this year. Growers are relying heavily on getting their pears under the federal school lunch program. Bartletts are there already. In fairness to the pear industry we feel the county court should call for a moratorium on the heater conversion program which comes under the country's overall air pollution control plan. The growers can't stand that added expense. Pear shippers are faced with trade restraints from European countries, too. A fairly recent meeting of the GATT council (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) found France guilty of unfair trade restrictions on U. S. exports under GATT Article 23. The U. S. then would be able to retaliate by restricting imports of French goods. However, France has requested time in which to work on this problem "due to internal political reasons." The U. S. state department has also suggested no immediate retaliation. Pacific Coast fruit growers faced with unfair restrictions on apples and pears are pointedly suggesting to their Congressional delegations that the state department officials prepare soon "to get off the dime!" And it has to be heads not tails. The local pear industry leaders are making an honest attempt to improve their public relations. They seem to be having some success in solving one knotty problem. We still have our fingers crossed, however. What few vegetable and small fruit producers there are in the valley are holding their own. More intensive promotion is needed here. Advent of Rogue basin water from the Congress-approved project and the possibility of a large processing plant located here would be a big boost. Meanwhile, gardeners have their noses in the brightly colored seed catalogues. More garden soil is probably turned over this time of year than any other—at least mentally.

FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

From this point until spring there will be a gradual increase in the tempo of most farm and ranch activities. This happens every season and is no doubt brought about by the desire of most farmers to be as ready as possible for the onset of growing weather. It is a great experience and we should feel fortunate to be permitted to go through it once each year. It has a rejuvenating effect on farm and ranch folk that is different from that gained by taking vitamins or by treating tired blood. It can perhaps be best characterized as being a state of feeling well physically and mentally, and at the same time experiencing an attitude of expectation that the coming season will be marked with success. There is a certain amount of self confidence and quiet faith involved in this feeling that sometimes eludes precise definition. **Faith Real** Nevertheless it is real and is the something that enables most people of the soil to carry on year after year regardless of just how bad cropwise or price-wise or both the most recent season had been. Regardless of whether the past season has been bad or good, most farmers and ranchers can, by careful analysis find where there had been some errors made that proved costly. Such mistakes should be properly identified and eliminated from the operation during the coming season. It is not likely that farming will ever be freed of some errors in practice as well as in judgment. We are making progress when the same mistakes are not repeated year after year. From now until spring it will be wise to use the brief periods of frozen soil to accomplish certain jobs that have to be done on areas of muddy ground. A great deal can be done during two or three hours each morning before the frost thaws. It is wise to disturb wet soil as little as possible. By working on frozen ground equipment may escape lots of wear and tear. We have been following the controversy that has developed regarding Oregon deer herds. On the one hand certain hunters insist that the deer are practically gone from Oregon forests. This contention is being countered by others who insist that the deer ranges are for the most part overpopulated. Since certain aspects of deer management have a bearing on the economic crops of farmers and ranchers, we plan to add an ear to the turbulent waters in the near future. Happy New Year everyone!

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The year 1962 will go down as the year of crisis at least for Rogue valley agriculture, if not for the state's farmers. Now comes the state's dairy industry which is faced with a possible wave of price cuts. However, Dick Westberg, manager of Coordinated Milk Sales, doesn't expect such price cuts to extend to this area if they do come. Questioned about Friday's story which appeared in at least two of the state's big city newspapers, Dick said, "That's exactly the kind of story I would write if I was a reporter hanging around the state capitol with nothing to do! Such price cuts would not be justified."

We refer to the story which appeared in one paper with big black headlines: "State Faces Milk Price War As Temporary Rule Expires." This story stated, "There is a good possibility that the price of milk in Oregon stores may take a considerable drop next week." The writer noted that the temporary milk price stabilization law ends Monday night. This law was enacted by the 1961 legislature after a drastic price break in the Portland milk market about 20 months ago. Saturday, the Salem bureau of United Press International wire service reported that one dairy plans to cut milk prices. This statement, too, is questionable. Probably the unnamed dealer figures by filing a price cut of two cents a quart, from the present \$5.86 per 100 pounds to \$4.90 he will protect his company in case of any price war. Under the state's milk audit law, each dealer is required to post his Jan. 1 price with the state along with contracts with milk producers. The strategy is obvious. By filing for a cut the dealer has room to maneuver among January prices. One of the few dealers smart enough to do this is Gordon Coleman of Meadow-Land Creamery, Eugene. Kenneth Sawyer, chief of the milk audit and stabilization division of the state department of agriculture, merely described the firm filing the cut as "an average size Willamette valley dealer."

What actually will happen to the prices paid producers will be determined in the milk pooling payout period from Feb. 5 to Feb. 25. This period covers the January milk production. In view of these late developments local dairymen will be missing a good show if they don't attend the Jan. 7-9 meeting of the Oregon Dairymen's association in Salem. Westberg and Coleman meet on a panel discussion of, "What Should the Oregon Dairy Industry Do?" Besides the entertainment value, dairymen might just happen to learn something. A majority report to answer the above question will be filed by a committee which reportedly has drafted a proposed marketing law. The committee has been working on a proposed voluntary agreement for the industry, but apparently without much luck. When industry representatives went to the state legislature requesting what developed into the milk stabilization law they promised not to return soon with another request. What will the dairymen tell the legislators this time? There seems little connection between Japanese poultry producers and Oregon dairymen, but there could be. Japanese ships have been seen loading pelleted hay at Long Beach, Calif. This will be used to strengthen Japan's position as the second largest poultry exporter in the world. If enough hay is shipped to Japan for poultry feed mix, then naturally hay prices on the Pacific coast will go up. This will increase the cost of dairymen's hay and further lighten the screws in the cost-price vice; particularly with the threatened milk price cuts in the offing. Informed observers see a close tie between milk prices and beef prices, also. When beef prices go up dairy farmers cull their herd more closely and put the slower producers on the beef market. Fewer cows producing the less milk on the market results in slightly higher prices. And the beef men have problems also. Range problems. The forest service wants more grass on government ranges and fewer cows on that grass. The cattlemen want more range grass, also, but they want cows left on it. They feel the forest service system of evaluating range condition is haywire. They also feel controlled brush burning and a more extensive program of range reseeding and development is needed. Other Oregon cattlemen who use government range land face the same problem. Nationally, the ranchers are faced with dual grading. Here there is a split on whether this new beef evaluation system is good or bad. At least some feeders oppose the new system. They claim it tends to encourage production of more lower quality cattle and a trend away from the pure-breds since conformity, and fat is not considered under the new dual-grading. But, fat is needed to produce high quality meat flavor, the feeders argue. And then there is the Common Market threat. 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APPLEGATE SCENE — Winter sunshine filtered through evergreen trees and highlighted the rail fence on the Applegate as area residents prepared to greet the new year today. Applegate ranchers are leading the drive against range allotment cuts by the forest service.

Pesticides Rated Both Good, Bad Speaker States

Salem—Public relationship, Rachel Carson's book on pesticides has dealt agriculture and pesticide applicators a blow which will linger on for the next few years. The impact can only be overcome by factual, not narrow or biased, information to the public—information that admits dangers and possibilities of damage but accents the choice between possible effects from untrained use and what life would be without benefit of pesticides. These are some of the comments J. F. Short, director, state department of agriculture, made to Oregon pesticide applicators in the closing talk before their three-day short course sponsored by the department and Oregon State university Dec. 17-19. Examples of good effects of pesticide usage can be as sensational as the opposite picture, he emphasized. Manufacturers, he said, should continue to develop maximum safety with effectiveness, should not soften the unavoidable and inherent dangers and everyone concerned should, above all, constantly emphasize the need for safe and proper handling. The least slip now, he declared, will be sensationalized even though caused by carelessness by one individual. Short suggested schools for careful training and education of the farmer, so he may protect his workman, animals and crops—training as careful as commercial applicators undergo. **Predicts Restrictions** Short predicted the current public uneasiness will result in tendency of lawmakers, on both the state and federal level, to impose tighter and tighter restrictions on the industry unless those who are closest to use of the products "keep the public away from the panic button." He further predicted the 1963 Oregon legislature will restudy the entire field of herbicide control and urged a crash program for research on drift damage. He expressed hope that the legislature will give adequate financial support to Oregon State university for continued effective research in the field of livestock, plant pest and disease control, weed control, range improvement and soil sterilization. Most of these problems involve in one way or another the agricultural sprays and dusts.

State Livestock Prospects Promising for New Year

Corvallis—Oregon livestock prospects are promising for 1963, but cattle and hog prices are likely to average slightly lower than in 1962. Lamb producers may experience their best market year since 1957, OSU economists reported. Oregon cattle prices have been improving the past 18 months mainly because the expected increase in national beef production failed to materialize. Beef output in 1962 was nearly the same as in 1961, while population gained almost two per cent. At the same time, cattle feeding slowed down in the Cornbelt and average slaughter weights of cattle were lighter than in other recent years, it was noted. Smaller marketings in the Midwest helped bolster prices in the West, despite record feedlot activity in California, Arizona and Texas. In the next two or three years, "cattle feeding is expected to increase some more in the Midwest as well as the west, suggesting greater market competition for western fed beef than in the past year, economists reported. As beef marketings increase generally, prices on Oregon slaughter cattle probably will adjust to lower levels, especially if the increase rate is much in excess of population growth. Such an increase now seems to be in prospect, Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State university extension agricultural economist, said. More cattle are sure to be available for feeding in 1963 and larger supplies for slaughter also will be coming from winter wheat pastures and ranges because beef cattle herd sizes have been increasing. Favorable range conditions and rising prices in 1962 encouraged ranchers to expand their herds. Preliminary estimates suggest that on Jan. 1, 1963, the nation had a record cattle inventory of 102 million head, Marks states. Foreign suppliers, namely Australia and New Zealand, probably will increase their exports to broaden their market outlets in the United States, especially if Great Britain, world's largest meat importer, joins the European Common Market, economists observed. The direct effect of the Common Market on U.S. livestock product exports will be relatively minor because the U.S. is a net importer of beef, Marks continues. U.S. exports of hides, skins and beef casings are not affected and still continue to enter the market duty free. However, U.S. exports of variety meats and tallow may be seriously affected, they warned. Under present arrangements, these products will be imported by the Common Market by a system of import certificates which can be suspended whenever Common Market prices come under too much pressure. Oregon hog prices in 1963 probably will average a little lower than in 1962, Marks notes. Some price recovery from the 1962 fall low is in prospect for early 1963, but not as much as a year earlier.

Pesticide Safety Talks Scheduled

Safety of application and Oregon laws pertaining to pesticides will be stressed in the short course scheduled for the Jackson county extension service auditorium, Monday, at 1:15 p.m. J. D. Patterson, state department of agriculture, is scheduled to discuss laws affecting the use of pesticides. Pesticide residue in food in relation to human health will be featured by Robert W. Every, entomologist, Oregon State university. Pesticides and the operator's well being will be outlined by Dr. A. Erin Merkel, Jackson county public health officer.

Gopher Control Pamphlet Issued

Corvallis—Gophers to control moles—gopher so-called "mobile weeds" that cause major economic damage to pastures and hayfields in several areas of Oregon, are outlined in a new Oregon State university extension bulletin now available from county extension offices. Written by William Q. Wick, Tillamook county extension agent, and Andrew S. Landforce, OSU extension wildlife management specialist, the new bulletin includes pictures showing the differences between moles and gophers and illustrating various control methods. The bulletin also outlines habits and life cycle of the mole. Much of this information has been learned since the spring of 1960 when a research project was initiated in Tillamook county by the OSU Agricultural Experiment station. Wick cooperates in the project.

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