

Bulls' Fertility Testing Key To Keeping, Selling

By SEDG NELSON
Slakiyou Farm Advisor
Yreka - Recently some range bulls were culled and sold on the basis of one fertility test. Later on the bulls showed up as being satisfacto-

ry for breeding and so the original owner was unhappy. The analysis of a bull's potency is not this simple and the decision to sell or keep depends on many factors.

We think that checking the fertility of range bulls is a good management practice on the ranch and is just as important as pregnancy testing cows. It is especially critical when a cattleman is depending on only three or four bulls. One dud can mean a lower calf crop and less money at the end of the year.

Dr. P. T. Cupps of the University of California points out that poor quality semen can be produced by bulls of any age, but he also found that nearly half of these bulls recovered in three to six months.

Sperm Quality
Sperm quality depends on motility, concentration, abnormality and infections. Ratings are usually made according to per cent of usable sperm. For simplification, bulls can be classed as satisfactory, questionable and unsatisfactory.

Tests at the University of Colorado, and at Texas A&M showed that some of the bulls in the questionable group would improve and some would get worse.

Bulls in the unsatisfactory group seldom improve. About 84 per cent of the bulls fall in the satisfactory group, nine per cent in questionable and seven per cent in unsatisfactory. In general, you might expect one bull out of 10 to be a dud.

Yearling bulls will test slightly lower than their mature test, but tests between 12 and 18 months are quite dependable. Bulls under 12 months old should not be tested.

Accuracy
The accuracy of testing bulls depends a great deal on how the sample is collected. If it isn't done properly by an experienced veterinarian, the results can be misleading.

The decision to sell a bull testing poorly depends on sperm analysis and on why he was rated poorly. It also depends on the value of the bull, need for immediate service, and whether you can afford to keep him for another test. A bull in the questionable group warrants a retest in two months if the above qualifications are met.

Servicemen

TAKES TRAINING
Airman Harlen D. Soper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold J. Fein, 214 North Columbus ave., Medford, has been assigned to Amarillo Air Force base, Texas, for technical training as a United States Air Force supply specialist. The airman attended Medford High school.

Spray Tips Given For Thistle Weed

Canada thistle is one of western Oregon's most troublesome perennial weed, according to Bern Wilcox, county extension agent.

When growing in wheat, oats or barley fields, plans should be made to spray these fields selectively with 2,4-D. The 2,4-D sprays should be applied before the grain is in the late boot stage of growth. 2,4-D can reduce grain yields if applied at the wrong time. Use one pound of 2,4-D per acre. Sprays applied during late May or June are more practical for spring seeded grains. Fall seeded grains normally should be sprayed during late April or May.

Wilcox says, thistle patches in pasture areas can be spot sprayed with 2,4-D. Use at least two pounds of 2,4-D per acre. Best control is obtained if sprayed in the bud stage of growth. Amitrole, sold as

Weedazol or Amino Triazole, is effective for thistle control, but should not be used in areas where livestock are grazed.

Shows Promise
A chemical showing promise for the control of thistle is Banvel D, manufactured by Velsicol company. Suggested rate for spraying is four pounds (1 gallon) of chemical per acre. This can be used for spot spraying and should not be used selectively, especially where legume crops are growing.

TBA, sold as Trysben or Benzac, is effective for eradicating thistle patches and can be used in irrigated areas any time during the summer months. Use 15 gallons per acre (30 pounds), which would be approximately one quart per square rod. TBA has short residual life in the soil, but is very effective for controlling Canada thistle and field bindweed.

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Water has been discovered on Mars by scientists using a giant telescope at Palo Alto, Calif.

No activity was noted and Mars hasn't taken off on a wild orbit so apparently there are no irrigation districts there. No doubt a number of irrigation district managers on planet earth, would at times, much rather run an irrigation district on another planet, even on Mars.

Although local irrigation districts enjoy a regional, and perhaps even a national reputation, for general efficiency, local water users are talking more and more about a possible cost saving and even increased efficiency by combining Rogue River Valley, Medford and Talent districts.

One of the leading proponents for such an overall reorganization said it should have two to three substations and a centrally located headquarters. A superintendent would be hired to oversee the overall operation and would carry out the policy of one overall board of directors.

A major hindrance would be the complicated and separate bookkeeping now required by the bureau of reclamation on rehabilitation and reclamation projects. MID owes the federal government \$2 1/2 million for a rehabilitation loan. TID owes \$5,810,000 for the Talent project. Rogue River Valley district has over \$800,000 still due the government for a rehab loan and will have approximately \$993,000 owing on the forthcoming Agate project on Dry creek.

It might be difficult to pool equipment for the three districts since it all has to be used at the same time. Perhaps a tighter work schedule could be set so equipment could be rotated through the three districts.

A unified and centralized operation might eliminate or reduce problems with subdivision applications. There should be one standard valley-wide strictly enforced subdivision policy, anyway. This would include maintenance of irrigation drainage ditches through subdivision areas and requirements for water connections and rights-of-way or easements for irrigation lines to serve those subdivisions.

If unification of all these districts does not occur in the near future, then the county planning commission should set such a policy and stick to it. Only the planning commission should have to meet with subdividers to see that all irrigation district requirements are met. Such requirements could be published and given each commission member, plus office personnel. The question then would be only does or doesn't the plat meet the requirements?

The irrigation districts should not have to spend most of four, five to seven-hour meetings discussing what must be done before a certain subdivision plat can be approved. The boards' undeviating function should be setting policy which will enable the district to deliver water the quickest and most efficient way to water users. The planning commission is equipped, or should be equipped, to study subdivision problems at length. An irrigation district board is not and should not, at least, not until subdivisions become the chief water users in any given district.

Two water users who keep a sharp eye on the future predict in comparatively few years at least one local irrigation district may serve subdivisions entirely. One of these two men commented this is now true in southern California. "We may soon be watering people's ankles instead of fruit tree trunks," one man said.

One of these men said, also, all property owners receiving irrigation water eventually may be allowed to vote in irrigation district elections. Now it amounts to taxation without representation, a violation of the traditional U.S. belief in freedom. And many are assessed and do not receive water due to the vagaries of water law. Some vote-seeking congressman or legislator, or both may be able to pass legislation to have irrigation water removed from non-farm tracts or to enfranchise those people with less than two acres of land. The latter is now required before a land-owner may vote.

Of course, the growing discussion about joining the three districts may simply be a good poker maneuver. When the deck appears to be stacked against your best interests you call for a reshuffle.

Yet, another problem still facing local agriculture—use of Mexican Nationals which international agreement expires Dec. 31. Perhaps few local people, and we were once among them, understand the wide-spread impact of this program, particularly in Mexico.

First, it has had a bad propaganda effect at a time when the U.S. is joining Latin America to try to keep the Communistic influence down. Congressman John E. Fogarty (D-Rhode Island) said, "If there was ever a slave labor piece of legislation adopted by Congress, this is it." Congressman Fogarty must be ambidextrous. He neatly managed to kick himself and the rest of U.S. policy-makers in the rear end in the eyes of those south of the border.

The Mexico City newspaper, La Parensa, commented: "There is no doubt that we have been insulted, but apart from the insult, they would leave us in the vulnerable position of losing from one day to the next the dollars the braceros send back to maintain our very precarious balance of payments. And that means some 300,000 Mexican families will suffer from the unemployment of their family wage earners."

The Mexican government apparently never has thought export of its laborers was the best solution to its unemployment, but it does hope this program can be renewed—even on a one-year basis instead of the present law.

It has been estimated that the approximately 200,000 Mexicans employed by American farmers last year (fewer than before) sent their families \$35 million of their wages. Mexico's relations with the U.S. are apparently stable now. This could rock the boat for that country's 1964 elections.

FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

Weather conditions for the local area are not ideal for the growth of many agricultural crops.

From a botanical standpoint the plants lowest on the scale of evolution do the best under current conditions. This grouping of plants happens to include most of the troublesome weed species and very few economic plants, asparagus, onions and a variety of flowering plants, almost covers the list of those favored by cool, cloudy weather. Primitive types of those favored are most of the grasses, horsetails and ferns. It so happens that many economic plants appear to be doing well under present weather conditions.

They look this way because they do not bear a crop and their energies are entirely occupied in production of vegetative parts such as leaves and shoots rather than in the production of fruits that have an economic value.

Hay Fields
Many hay fields would be at least 30 per cent more productive of edible hay or forage if they were treated for weed control. Such weeds as sour dock and wild carrot tend to produce quite a large tonnage of hay, but it is not palatable to cattle and therefore results in considerable tonnage of material that is not productive of animal poundage profitable in the market place.

Vetch of an acceptable variety is abundant in our valley. Where it is harvested for seed, a sufficient amount is left for reseeding purposes. It is a colorful plant for the countryside, so lets encourage its propagation.

Before the soil becomes too dry and hard, fire lanes should be disced or plowed around all fields and properties that may be later menaced by grass fires.

Tomato plants may be flowering at this time. Fruits can be set on such plants by application of hormones available at your seed dealer. You won't be proud of the product, but if you are experimentally minded, proceed! We cannot expect flowering tomatoes to set fruits until the night temperatures are 55 degrees or above.

Legislation
The legislature did all Oregon citizens a favor by finally disbanding. The longer they stayed in session the more the private, tax-paying citizen was penalized for the cost of representative government. Their principal program was to pass themselves a salary.

The fact they bowed to the governor and other administrative powers on an increased budget was even worse than paying themselves well for a holiday in Salem.

The only constructive thing they did was in a negative manner. This was the failure of the new state constitution in the legislature. It would only have meant a stronger legislature, governor and judiciary none of which we need as they only cost money — taxes!

Duncan Speaks for Alma Mater Group
Congressman Robert B. Duncan (D-Ore.) returned to his alma mater — Illinois Wesleyan university — at Bloomington, Ill., last week where he was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the school's Alumni association.

Duncan received his bachelor of arts degree from the university in 1942. He returned to Bloomington not only as a graduate of the university, but also to the town where he attended grade and high school. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Duncan, were among the more than 400 persons who heard him speak.

The Oregon congress man stressed that the great problems of this generation are social problems — many the result of the vast increase in man's scientific knowledge.

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Grade Standards Under Revision For Fresh Fruit

Salem - Revisions of grade standards for 34 fresh produce commodities have been proposed by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and will be discussed at hearings Monday, June 24.

The hearings will start at 9 a.m. at the department's building in Salem and continue through the day.

The department is also proposing to repeal all of the existing Oregon fresh produce container standards. Department plant division officials say these are now obsolete and no longer applicable to present industry packaging and merchandising. This will leave the packager free to use his discretion in containers but Oregon laws still guard against deceptive packaging and false labeling.

Prior to proposing the regulation changes the department reviewed the present Oregon standards and conferred with commodity and industry representatives and department commodity inspection supervisors on possible changes.

The standards now proposed will bring Oregon standards in line with revised standards of the fruit and vegetable branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Other proposed changes coming before the hearing will serve a housecleaning function by eliminating repetitious labeling already covered by Oregon statutes.

Apples Affected
Fresh produce that would be affected by the proposed revisions are: Apples, apricots, snap beans, bunched beets, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cantaloupes, bunched carrots, cauliflower, celery, green corn, sweet cherries, dew berries, blackberries, American and European type grapes, lettuce, loganberries, onions, onion sets, topped parsnips, peaches, summer and fall pears, winter pears, fresh peas, fresh plums and prunes, raspberries, spinach plants, strawberries, fresh tomatoes and watermelons; and also inshell walnuts and filbert kernels.

No revisions are proposed for potatoes, inshell filberts, sulphured cherries and prunes and plums for processing.

Persons wanting copies of the proposed standards may request them from the Plant Division, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salem 10, Oregon, or at the department's branch office, 372 State Office Building, Portland 1, Oregon.

A new type of bed spring contains no metal.

Beef Group Sets \$77,260 Budget

Portland - The Oregon Beef Council at its regular meeting at the beef council office, Imperial Hotel, recently, passed its 1963-64 budget of \$77,260 according to Richard Westerberg, A.S.I.A.D., chairman of the council.

The new budget, which takes effect July 1, 1963, is some 7 per cent higher than the current budget. The funds, which are derived from the sale of Oregon cattle, will be used for cattle industry studies, research and beef promotion. "Specific programs which will be financed by the new budget and benefit the cattle industry will include, public land and wilderness studies, sanitation and disease control, brands, feed grain programs, imports and tariffs, freight rates and other areas of concern to the industry," Westerberg stated. The beef council will also finance an economic study of the state's cattle industry in cooperation with Oregon State university.

The Beef Council budget will also finance merchandising, promotion and educational programs conducted by the Oregon Cow Belles. Funds will also go to the National Livestock and Meat board for national beef promotion and research.

The Council expects beef rates in the state to be 850,000 head in the coming fiscal year starting July 1, 1963. The

Council derives 10 cents from each animal sold. However, the seller is refunded his money upon request. Refunds made during the past year totaled approximately 15 per cent of funds collected. Two years ago refund payments were averaging 30 per cent of total funds collected. Westerberg said "this indicates active support and growing confidence from the cattlemen for the projects and programs carried on by the Oregon Beef Council."

Washington - (UPI) - A southern senator predicts the Senate will override a Dixie filibuster and pass President Kennedy's new civil rights program this year.

Sen. George A. Smathers (D-Fla.) a member of the bloc opposing civil rights legislation, said Sunday he expected a civil rights measure to get through the Senate.

Asked if he thought there would be a successful move to apply cloture, or gag rule, against an expected southern filibuster, Smathers replied: "I'm afraid that there will be."

Civil Rights Bill Expected To Pass

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What miticide are we going to use this season?

KELTHANE AP. I've been checking the orchards of some of the big apple and pear growers around here. They all use KELTHANE AP. You should see how clean their trees are!

Are you sure it will kill the mites we've got?

Dead sure, honey. KELTHANE AP kills just about any mite that attacks apples and pears. European red, two-spotted, McDaniel, Williams, apple rust and clover. Its action lasts, too—kills off migrants and new colonies. And it won't hurt mite predators.

If it's that good, we'd better start using it and stay with it.

You read my mind as usual. I'm going in to pick up enough KELTHANE AP to take care of our mite problems.

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