

Cattle Go For Sweets, Don't Look for Values

Cows seek sweets, not nutrients, and recent research and tests conducted in Klamath county and other parts of the Country have come up with some startling conclusions along those lines.

County Agent J. D. Vertrees has noted that cattle often appear to avoid plants influenced by their droppings, and conclusions from observations were made there, as well.

In several localities here, Vertrees said, observations have been made where high rates of superphosphates have been applied, and the result was more uniform grazing.

On the Louie Lyons ranch near Malin, fertilized with 400 pounds showed almost an absence of "clumping" of grasses around manure pads. It is a case of over-graze and non-graze, the county agent says.

Plans next year involve a series of demonstrations including some in Poe Valley showing the increased palatability of alfalfa fescue when it is fertilized with phosphate. The phosphate provides plant sugars, Vertrees said.

An Oklahoma agronomist named Max J. Plice has reported that experiments have been out the fact

that a cow's selection of food from a field may be more a case of "bovine sweet tooth" than anything else. Preference of cattle may be due to the sugar content rather than the nutrient values.

The Oklahoma findings also explain in part why cattle avoid the dropping areas. Plants affected by droppings are shown to have less sugar content. When lush, manure-affected plants were sprayed with sugar solutions the grazing animals forgot their prejudice and ate the manured grass readily, according to Plice.

To prove it was not the food value of the sugar the animals wanted, sweet materials with little or no food value were sprayed on with the same results. The cattle seemed to prefer portions of the soil where phosphorous content of the soil was fairly high. Here again Plice found relation to sugar content.

Cow manure is relatively lacking in available phosphorous and is relatively high in potash and nitrogen. Consequently it is an unbalanced fertilizer. Although there is usually lush growth where it is used, the resulting plants are usually lacking in sugar content.

Herald and News

FARM NEWS

MALCOLM EPLEY, Jr.
Farm Editor



Cultivation Practices Affect Barley Yields

Tests conducted by Ken Baggett, Farm Advisor of the University of California, Tulare, this year have demonstrated that the cultivation practices of barley fields in the Tulare Basin may affect the yield during the current season.

The Farm Advisor's office, in cooperation with Tulare farmers, Len Toler, Dick Fuller and Wes-

Field Location	Soil Type	Crop & Fert. History	Yield in Pounds		
			Plowed	Disced	Chiseled
Northeast of Tulare	light mineral muck	1950 Barley			
		1951 Potatoes 500-lbs. 16-20 applied	4194	4149	3488
		1952 Barley			
Northeast of Tulare	mineral muck	1950 Barley			
		1951 Potatoes 500-lbs. 16-20 applied	5117	5241	4479
		1952 Barley			
Panhandle Area	dark muck	1950 Barley	5565	5122	4475
		1951 Barley			
		1952 Barley			

ley St. Peter discovered that discing or plowing of barley fields planted the previous year to potatoes obtained higher yields than where the fields were chiseled. Each of the three above mentioned fields were equally divided into 3 plots, one section plowed, one disc and one chiseled. In each case chiseled field yielded less

Field Mice Populations Up; Poison Available

Klamath's annual winter crop of field mice is now in progress of propagation in local fields, according to Harold Schieferstein, county weed and pest control officer.

The crop is being produced beneath the snow where temperatures have cooled down enough to keep moisture content of the soil frozen and runways and burrows dry.

Indications that the tiny pests are in the fields are noticeable runways and burrows in the snow. They may be controlled by placing poison oat groats — available from the County Agent's office here — in the burrows and runways at the rate of between a teaspoon and tablespoon per location. Schieferstein suggests setting up poison stations to protect the oats from moisture so the lethal potential will be preserved.

Before recent storms Schieferstein said it was too wet and conditions not right for the mice to produce, but that now all indications are they are now. And, he said, if conditions remain correct

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Lice Spraying Still Timely

Even though the cold weather is here, cattle lice are thriving and can still be sprayed, according to County Agent J. D. Vertrees.

The spray jobs should be done between 10 a.m. and early afternoon—during the warmer parts of the day—with plenty of time to allow the cattle to drain before it gets dark and too cold. Vertrees suggests three to four hours for draining.

The lice cause irritation, loss of hair, inefficient feed use, and consequent loss of weight.

The county agent suggests use of power sprayers with 400 or more



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OSC Experts See Meat Dip, Dairy Rise in 1953

Dairy product prices are likely to be higher in 1953, but meat prices will continue down, according to agricultural economists of the Oregon State college extension service.

Milk production may increase a little next year but it is not expected to keep pace with population growth and strong buying power. Economist M. D. Thomas points out in the latest issue of "Oregon Agricultural Situation and Outlook." Copies of the circular may be obtained from county agents or OSC.

Thomas believes consumers will continue to shift from butter to lower-priced substitutes but will increase their demand for dairy products in fluid form or as cheese.

He says these trends are recognized by dairymen who are adjusting to changing market demands by shifting from fat to milk production.

The outlook notes that a record supply of beef is now on its way to market and should keep

coming in larger amounts at lower prices for several years. Cattle and calf slaughter in another three to five years could be 40 percent greater than this year's kill.

However, beef prices, in the long run, will depend largely on employment and consumer income, according to the economist.

"Consumers have shown that they would pay high prices for beef when they have jobs and are working hard," Thomas says.

The OSC specialists believe a farm flock of sheep offer better promise for using native pasture and other cheap forage than do cattle. High cost of labor in continuing as a serious obstacle to range sheep.

Wool supports will continue in 1953 near this year's level with little change in prices to growers, barring increased military activity.

Wool production is expected to decline in 1953, but increased beef supplies and weak demand for lamb will tend to keep hog prices from rising.

'53 Wheat Falls Short

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States wheat crop in 1953 may fall far short of market demand but reserves from past crops would make up the difference.

The total 1953 wheat production could amount to about 1,900 million bushels, the smallest in 10 years and much below this year's near-record output of 2,292,000,000 bushels.

The 1953 figure includes a 611-141,000 bushel yield from fall-planted winter wheat, as forecast Friday by the Agriculture Department, and an assumed average spring wheat crop of 265 million bushels, which will not be estimated until early summer.

The department said market demands from the 1953 crop, depending upon the export requirement, may be around 950 million to one billion bushels.

The difference between supply and demand in 1953 could be taken from a 660 million bushel reserve accumulated from recent big crops, much of which is stored under the government's price support program.

There also is the possibility that the 1953 winter wheat crop will be larger than now forecast. Final production estimates generally run higher than the preliminary ones.

Farmers planted a relatively large acreage to wheat last fall—55,361,000, down one per cent from a year earlier. But weather conditions were bad.

Summer drought had sapped the moisture reserve of the soil and rains were not appreciable until late November. Progress of the crop to Dec. 1 was the least satisfactory in many years.

The department said prospects are extremely poor in Kansas and Oklahoma, which had record crops this year, and in Texas, Nebraska, although spotty, was in better shape.

Low winter temperatures may damage acreage in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, the department said, and conditions are generally poor in the Pacific Northwest and Montana.

Spud Boxes Discussed

Fiberboard containers for shipping and retailing potatoes offer some advantages over conventional 100-pound burlap bags but are costly and bulky to handle, according to G. B. Davis, agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

Davis reports on experiments using the containers for potato shipments from Redmond to markets in Portland in new experiment station circular 516. Copies are available from county agents or OSC.

The 50-pound fiberboard boxes afforded excellent protection between shipping point and wholesale warehouses in Portland, Davis found. However, the boxes absorb moisture and tend to bulge if held in cold storage for as long as 10 days. The cost of a 50-pound box is also more than one 100-pound bag, which has salvage value.

Davis says most farm cellars don't have enough working space for efficient handling and packing of boxes which pushes costs above that for burlap. Boxes found favor, however, with retail store managers who found them easy to handle and display.

Stockmen Meet Jan. 19

The Western Oregon Livestock association will meet Jan. 19, 20 and 21 at Coquille, according to Harry Lindgren, extension animal husbandry specialist at Oregon State college and association secretary.

Topics up for discussion include increased brand inspection in Western Oregon and tax equalization between agricultural and timber land.

Harry A. Schoth, USDA agronomist at OSC, will report on livestock and pasture problems which he observed earlier this year in Europe. Other speakers will include Harry Stearns, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's association, and Gerald Stanfield, president of the Oregon Wool Growers' association.

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