

The County Agent Reports on Klamath Agriculture

BLOATING

During the past two weeks quite a bit of bloating has been reported on pastures with a considerable growth of clover. Clover has been growing quite well in pastures during the past two weeks. In some cases, faster than grass. Whenever clover produces 30 per cent or more of the pasture provided there is considerable danger of bloating. When this percentage reaches 75 per cent pasture can be highly dangerous. One of the best methods of overcoming this condition is to clip the pasture and put on more cattle if available. Cattle should not be turned into a heavy clover pasture when they are hungry and they should be watched very closely for the first day or two.

According to Ed Cole, Livestock Marketing Specialist at Oregon State College, grass-fed cattle are beginning to come onto the market in quantity. These cattle are replacing much of the grain-fed cattle and Cole states that good grass-fed beef is just as tasty, nutritious, and wholesome as grain-fed cattle. The slaughter of grass-fed cattle will continue to increase.

MARKET REPORTING

Market reporting of the Klamath Auction Sale will be discontinued June 30. Weekly reporting of this sale started Oct. 1, 1952, for a 9 months' period. This was made possible by Federal funds received from the Production Marketing Act of 1946. This was in the nature of a trial run to determine need and value of this type of marketing service. The number of people wishing to receive this report continued to increase throughout this period and passed the thousand mark this spring.

POTATO PRICES

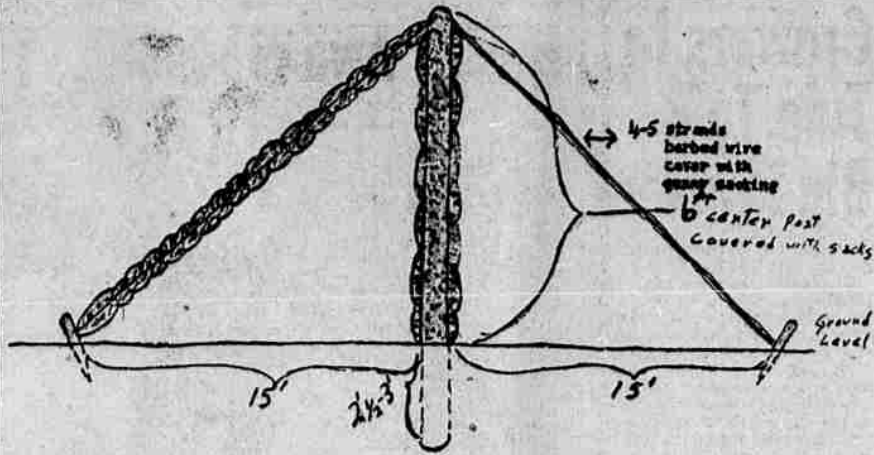
Potato prices in the Kern County area of California are running much lower than a year earlier. Last week FOB shipping point prices ranged from 1.00 to 1.30 as compared to 4.25 to 4.75 in 1952 and 2.25 to 2.40 in 1951. Increased production in early producing states has brought this about even in the face of some unfavorable growing conditions.

FARM PRICES

The Agricultural Situation for June published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics shows further drops in prices paid to farmers for agricultural products. A total of 28 major commodities listed shows the prices on May 15, to be below parity on 21 commodities and above parity on 4 others. The 4 above parity at that time were rice, sweet potatoes, apples and hogs. The latter is the only commodity produced commercially in the Klamath Basin and the quantity is, rather small.

CATTLE PRICES

The June Agriculture Situation shows an interesting graph on the number of cattle on farms Jan. 1, different years. The pattern is fairly regular for the past 70 years. The high years for this period were (of cattle on farms) on Jan. 1 for 1890, 60,000,000; 1904, 66,000,000; 1917, 73,000,000; 1936, 78,000,000; 1944, 85,000,000; 1953, 92,000,000 and still going up. The lows between these high periods were 1895, 50,000,000; 1914, 58,000,000; 1928, 59,000,000; 1937, 67,000,000; 1950, 77,000,000. These figures approximated from the graph, serve to show the ever increasing tendency upwards in numbers both in the highs and lows. It is generally predicted that the decreased trend in numbers will start in 1954.



EASY HORNFLY CONTROL can be achieved with this simple rubbing post setup, according to J. D. Vertrees, secretary of the Klamath Cattleman's Association. Simply pick a spot near water or salt blocks where cattle appear every two or three days. Select an eight or nine foot pole and set it three feet in the ground. From the top stretch four or five strands of barbed wire down to a deadman or stub 15 feet away and tighten by twisting. Then take used gunny sacks and wrap the wires in four or five layers, tie every six inches with bailing cord or smooth wire and clip ends so they won't scratch the hide. It helps to wrap the center post in sacking, too. Then soak these wrappings in a mixture of clean, new stove or diesel oil along with a five percent solution of DDT or Chlordane emulsion. Use only liquid DDT. Remember that used crankcase oil is harmful to stock and should never be used. Mix the solution thoroughly with a stick and treat sacking. One such post will take care of about a hundred average size cattle. Renew solution once every 30 days. This treatment will also give some relief from mosquitoes. Further questions can be answered at the County Extension Agent's Office.

Smoky Joes On The Job

About 250 smoke jumpers will be hired by the Forest Service this year to parachute to back country forest fires in the West, according to a recent announcement by the Forest Service. This elite corps of specialists make up the first line of defense on fires in remote roadless areas. Twenty five of these expert fire fighters are stationed at Cave Junction, Oregon (32 miles south of Grants Pass) to leave on a minute's notice to put out fires starting in remote mountainous areas of Oregon and California. Other smokejumper bases are at Missoula, Montana, and McCall, Idaho. A smoke jumper group consisting of eight men made 25 fire jumps in the California national forests last year. Getting to fires when they are

Legume Weed Control Told

Weed control in perennial legumes is discussed in a new leaflet by University of California Agronomist Luther G. Jones and Agricultural Extension Service Weed Control Specialist, William A. Harvey.

The leaflet, titled Weed Control in Perennial Legumes, is available with out charge in the Tulelake Farm Advisor's office, so

states Ken Baggett, University of California Farm Advisor. Its authors discuss the two main methods for controlling weeds in perennial legume stands. These are cultural and chemical with each method offering several choices. But Jones and Harvey warn that the choice of method is no more important than the decision to act at the right time. The key to the whole

program is keeping ahead of the weeds. If they are allowed to grow large or go to seed the problem becomes more difficult and many times more expensive.

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