

Cattleman Predicts Better Grass Season In Oregon

"We look for a strengthening of feeder cattle prices with the coming grass season," Garland Meador, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, told members of the Klamath County Cattlemen's Association at the annual meeting of the



ED COLES of Prineville, left, and Garland Meador of Prairie City, secretary and president, respectively, of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, were guest speakers at the annual meeting of the Klamath County Cattlemen's Association held on February 23 at the Willard Hotel.

Klamath County group Thursday afternoon.

"It should be a good grass year in all of the Pacific Coast states," he added.

Ed Coles of Prineville, secretary of the state association, told the group that there is an increase in the number of members of the Oregon association and considerable interest among cattlemen in improving operation and management practices.

There are now approximately 97½ million head of cattle in the nation, Coles said, an increase of one per cent over 1955.

"However, the number of cattle in Oregon decreased last year about two per cent from the previous year, according to the January 1, 1956, inventory," Coles said. "This is the first decline in numbers since 1949. On January 1 there was an estimated total of 1,456,000 head of all cattle in Oregon. This is still the second largest number on record."

The number of beef heifers from one to two years declined 14 per cent in 1955. Steers, one year and older, showed an increase of 13

per cent, the largest increase of any group. Beef cows were up two per cent.

The state association officers complimented the dairymen on showing an increase in milk production with fewer cows in their herds. Dairy stock showed a de-

"Better management is obviously the answer," Coles added.

At the afternoon business sessions, Meador reviewed the history of freight rates as they affect the cattle industry of the state, adding that formal protest has been filed by the American National Cattlemen's Association since announcement of the overall seven per cent increase in freight rates.

Oregon and California are leading the way in the nation toward establishment of state beef commissions, Meador told the group. Oregon's state enabling act permits the formation of a beef commission in this state. The present hurdle is making arrangements for the state brand inspector to collect fees for financing the work of the commission at the brand inspection level. Fees would be collected only on cattle being shipped to market.

"Under present circumstances," Meador said, "a fee of five cents per animal at the brand inspection level would raise about \$40,000 a year for promotion, education, research and advertising."

About 90 cattlemen and their wives attended the annual banquet Thursday night at the Willard Hotel, sponsored jointly by the Klamath Cattlemen's Association

and its auxiliary, Klamath County Cow Belles.

At the head table in addition to Coles and Meador were the 1956 officers. Unanimously reelected at the close of the business meeting were Dave Campbell of Bly, as president, and Bill Gouldin of Beaver Marsh and Klamath Falls, as vice president. Ray Petersen, Klamath County agent, will serve again as secretary.

Dick Gallagher was master of ceremonies. Mrs. Ted Hyde, outgoing president of the Cow Belles, was honored and the new officers introduced. Mrs. Bill Gouldin is 1956 president.

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