

Rancher's Report

By BILL DECKER

Since a good deal of information crosses this desk each week which does not fall into the strict category of "news," but which is nonetheless of great interest to ranchers in this area, we have decided to try to pass this information on to our readers in this column which will be a regular feature in the Sunday Magazine Section of Klamath Basin Living.

If you have any suggestions as to what should be covered or items which you think might be of interest to our readers send them in.

The University of Missouri issued a very cautious, but encouraging, report recently regarding their experiments on a blood test for dwarfism. For a long time cattlemen all over the country have been waiting for the development of some positive test for this increasingly serious hereditary factor. The profilometer has proven to be at best a hit or miss proposition.

If the blood tests can be proven accurate, and so far the reports give every reason for us to expect that they will, for the first time we will have a quick, economical method of detecting carriers in our herds. I suspect that shortly after the test is approved several heretofore prominent names will not appear again in the registry.

Dwarfism has probably been with us for a lot longer than most of us suspect. A rancher riding through his herd in the spring will often find the carcass of a dead calf and simply say to himself, "There's one that didn't make it." Perhaps the calf was a dwarf and with the characteristic digestive disorders which generally accompany dwarfism, or the underslung jaw which may make it impossible for the calf to nurse, it succumbed. The rancher may never know why.

The actual extent of dwarfism in purebred herds has been played down for the obvious reason that breeders do not want any suspicion directed at their bloodlines. For some time experimental herds of known dwarfism carriers have been maintained and experimented with at several state universities. The University of California has built up just such a herd at Davis and it was there that the profilometer was developed.

In spite of the protests of several breeders dwarfism has appeared in all major beef breeds and some dairy cattle breeds in this country. Briefly it works like this: a cow may carry the gene which causes this hereditary trait but she will not produce a dwarf calf unless she is bred to a bull which also carries the same gene. Since this is the case the only sure way of detecting a carrier is to breed it to a known carrier and wait for the results. This is impractical so every effort has been made to perfect a better test.

The blood test works something like this: insulin is injected into the blood stream of the animal and after a period of time the blood of that animal is sampled and a count made of the white blood cells. In clean animals the pituitary gland stimulates the adrenal gland sufficiently to cause an increase in the white blood cell count under the influence of the insulin. Tests on dwarfs showed very little increase and carriers showed only a slight increase in the white blood cell count.

The test is now being made in the field and results will be announced soon.

No one seems to know where dwarfism came into the picture; it is entirely unknown in England where so many of our beef breeds originated. If this test proves successful we may be able to rid our herds of it.

Is anyone interested in the fact that Jim Shoulders added 720 points to his lead in the bull riding standing by winning that event at Des Moines, Iowa? We get the national standings regularly and will publish them in brief in

this column if enough people want to keep up with the rodeo picture

Since California cattlemen failed to vote in a beef commission in their state Oregon ranchers are expected to follow suit. As one cattleman who did not want to be quoted said the other day, "If you're going for a commission it will have to be on a national basis. Individual states can't get the job done."

Plan to attend the Lake County Range Bull Sale on October 5 and 6.

They tell me that Ole Brown came back from Lakeview, after helping out on a two day cattle drive from Big Valley, cussing his saddle in an Irish brogue.

PLUMBING FITTINGS

Faucet handles with a satin chromium - plated finish were shown at the National Plumbing and Heating Exposition in Milwaukee recently, says the Plumbing and Heating Industries Bureau. The new finish imparts a soft sheen to the fittings in contrast to the conventional high lustre of chromium plating.

Potato Vine Killers Listed

Tulelake Basin potato seed growers who are interested in killing potato vines to prevent further growth of potato seed crops are urged to restrict the use of oils to a minimum in the sprays in order to prevent the discoloration of the vascular layer in the potato tuber, so reports Ken Baghott, Tulelake farm adviser.

Studies conducted in the field in cooperation with farmers in the Tulelake Basin and on the Tulelake Field Station, indicates that where five gallons or more oil is used in combination with a top killer, the potato tuber discoloration increases as much as 54 per cent. For this reason the farm adviser recommends restricting the use of oil to no more than three gallons of oil per acre. The use of dinitra and oil, penta and oil or any other good top killer should produce satisfactory results. Farmers interested in further information may contact the Tulelake farm adviser's office.

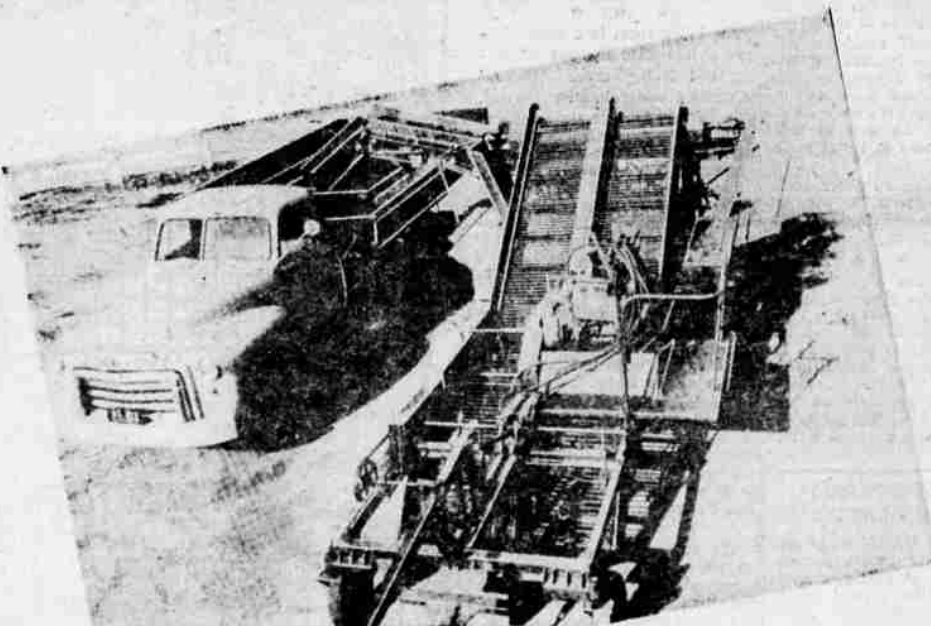
WHEN BUILDING SETTLES

Building settlement or shrinking or swelling of the wood may cause weatherstripping to get out of alignment. If that happens, a flat instrument, such as a putty knife or a flat wood block and hammer, can be used to move the stripping into meshing position.



WATCHING THE CATTLE BEING LOADED Vern Howard of Klamath Falls is careful to see to it that none of the cars are over crowded. The company which Vern is buying for has been well pleased with the Lake County cattle they have handled in the past. A cattle buyer must be able to estimate the quality of stock, their potential rate of gain or grade and dressing percentage. If he is buying cattle for slaughter he must be able to see "through the hide" and know what they will look like on the hook.

Speed Harvesting—Cut Cost WITH A 2-ROW Dahlman Potato Combine



Quickly Pays For Itself!

For rugged, trouble-free operation, the Dahlman "double" just can't be beat, regardless of cost. It is being used successfully in every major potato-growing area of the United States . . . in nearly every type of soil condition likely to be encountered. Its enthusiastic acceptance by users has made it the outstanding potato combine in the nation. Operating at approximately the same rate of speed as an ordinary 2-row digger, it harvests up to 20 acres daily and will outperform as many

as 40 hand pickers. A self-contained gasoline power unit provides simple control of apron speed, and furnishes hydraulic power for adjustment of digger blades individually, side delivery apron and extension, and rear wheel steering. Commercial potato growers state that the Dahlman Combine reduces potato damage, speeds up harvesting and cuts costs substantially. Some growers have found that the Dahlman Combine will pay its own cost in one season!

SEE THE DAHLMAN POTATO COMBINE TODAY!

DON POTTER MACHINERY CO.

Klamath Falls - 2434 S. 6th - TU 4-6761

Tulelake - Call 7-0752