

Rancher's Report

By BILL DECKER

The University of Nebraska reported on tests run feeding spayed heifers and the reports would seem to indicate that they did not do as well in the feed yard as a comparable lot of open heifers did. The spayed heifers were far less efficient in converting feed into weight gains and the records show that there was nothing to be gained, from the feeder's point of view, in the operation.

A long time ago spaying was commonly practiced when market conditions made it impractical to sell small heifers. If she were spayed she could be turned out on grass and kept until such time as it would pay to sell her without any danger of her becoming bred. The days of keeping beef until they are four or five years old for the purpose of getting maximum growth are a thing of the past.

The only advantage in spaying would seem to be the obvious fact that you can be sure that the heifers will remain open. Buyers seem to automatically discount females on the chance that they might be bred, but many feeders turn a bull in with their heifers during the latter stages of the finishing period on the theory that their rate of gain increases.

There are as many different points of view on this subject as there are feeders of cattle.

Jim Shoulders seems to have this year's all around cowboy championship sewed up. The Henry, Oklahoma rodeo rider has won over 32,000 points so far and may top the 50,000 mark before the season is over. He has a comfortable lead in the bareback bronc riding and nearly twice as many points as the nearest contender in the bullriding. There is a chance for some close competition for the calf roping championship between Ray Wharton and Buddy Groff, and in the steer wrestling between Harley May and Benny Combs. We will keep you posted if enough of you are interested.

Alsike clover seed is worth just about twice what it was last year largely because two-thirds of the clover in Canada was killed out last winter. For several years the use of Alsike clover seed has declined steadily but Klamath Basin growers have captured an increasing share of the market. Over half of the entire U.S. crop this year will come from Oregon and California, and as other areas continue to reduce acreage Basin farmers should continue to find Alsike a good crop.

Contracting for fall calves seems to be running generally around the 17 and 19 cent bracket.

Local Boys Win Grants

Kenneth R. Ostrom, 1924 Laurel Street and Gary J. Price, 402 Noller, are two of 32 winners of four-year naval science scholarships at Oregon State College.

The list of scholarship winners was announced by Capt. Daniel B. Miller, commander of the naval ROTC program at OSC. Eighteen recipients are from Oregon.

Scholarships cover all tuition costs, fees, books and uniforms plus \$50 a month during the four years of college.

During their four years of college, students complete the regular course of study in their selected major field along with one naval science class each quarter. Three summer cruises of from six to eight weeks are included.

At graduation, students are commissioned either as ensigns in the U.S. Navy or as second lieutenants in the Marine Corps. Three years of active duty are required after graduation.

Students receiving the scholarships are selected from top scorers in a nationwide written examination. More than 30,000 young men took the test last fall and approximately 2,000 were selected for the college scholarships, Capt. Miller said.

New Date Set On Soil Bank Filing

Deadline for signing contracts under the Acreage Reserve section of the soil bank has been changed from September 21 to October 5, 1956. There is still time to sign up under the AR program on or before that date. That is of particular interest to wheat growers who have a marketing allotment and wish to voluntarily reduce their allotment and be paid for doing so. This can be done at the ASC office, U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Tower Theater Building.

MODERNIZATION

Modernization of plumbing and heating equipment as a protection of property values will be the theme of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Month. Manufacturers, wholesalers, and contractors throughout the United States are cooperating in this campaign to emphasize the contribution of these industries to better living.

Deadline Near On Tax Refund

The Internal Revenue Service has issued a reminder to farmers that claims must be filed not later than October 1, 1956, in order to obtain refund of the federal excise tax on gasoline.

Many farmers entitled to refund of the tax on gasoline purchased after December 31, 1955, and used for farming purposes during the first six months of 1956 have not yet filed their claims.

Under the law authorizing the refund, claims filed after October 1, 1956, covering gasoline used during the six-month period cannot be paid. Farmers who file their claims after this date will not receive the amount claimed.

In view of the short time remaining before the October 1 deadline, farmers eligible for refunds are requested to submit their claims promptly.

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County Agent Reports Farm News Briefed From The County Agent Radio Programs

By RAY PETERSEN

What feed or combination of feeds should a stockman use? This varies with the type of livestock being fed and whether they are being wintered, being fattened or being fed to produce milk. Another important factor to consider is the relative price of the different feeds.

Usually any feed is cheapest during harvest season. Barley is probably cheaper now than it will be at any other time, therefore, if storage is available money can be made by laying in a winter's supply.

Alfalfa hay is one of our cheapest feeds at present prices. With barley selling at \$40 per ton, alfalfa is worth \$27. Actually it can be bought for less than this. Feeding alfalfa hay at a maximum will cheapen the rations.

Oats are a good feed but are relatively more expensive than barley. Barley at \$40 per ton is just as good a buy as oats at \$30 per ton. Some oats or other feeds such as almond hulls or molasses are needed in high grain rations to prevent bloat and other digestive disturbances, but due to their costs minimum amounts should be fed. When these feeds make up one fourth to one third the grain mixture and the balance barley, there should be no trouble from bloat.

Molasses is a good feed and is valuable in holding down dust in ground feeds. At present price relationships it may be more economical to feed rolled grains.

Protein is very important in rations but when alfalfa hay or silage is fed in large quantities no protein supplement is needed. Six to eight pounds of alfalfa hay will supply the protein needed by most beef whether being wintered or fattened.

Dairy cattle will need about 20 to 25 pounds of alfalfa hay or its equivalent in silage.

In beef fattening rations where large quantities of grain are fed and only grain or grass hay is fed, a protein supplement will increase gains and lower costs.

Feeding trials have shown that protein added to heavy potato rations will increase rate of gain substantially. Wintering beef cows and stock cattle can be cheapened by using straw, grain hay, clover chaff or grass hay. Protein and vitamin A should be provided by

feeding six to eight pounds of alfalfa or protein concentrates with vitamin A added. If cattle have green hay or grass most of the year there is a question whether vitamin A is needed, but stock carried on bleached summer grass or bleached hay or straw in winter, may suffer from a shortage of this vitamin. Salt and bone meal should be available to stock at all times and especially if limited quantities of alfalfa are provided.

Since there are many feed combinations possible for the different kinds of livestock in this area the county agent's office will be glad to help stockmen work out suitable and economical rations.

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