

Farmer Of The Week: Robert Lynn

Recent Arrival Has Improvement Plans

By DICK HUBBELL

A newcomer in the Klamath Basin has bought about 1,400 acres of ranch land south of the Keno highway and in less than a year has made great strides converting it into a modern cattle ranch.

At the same time, he has been raising a rice crop near Williams, California, his former home.

He is Robert Lynn, who with his wife and children, arrived at the Keno spread on November 17 last year, "right in the middle of a snow storm, even though we had heard of the beautiful fall weather here."

But, Lynn said, the weather here did provide a welcome change from Williams, "once you got used to it."

And, he said, raising cattle is a lot less trouble than raising rice. His 300 acre drop costs about \$70-\$80 per acre to produce, or almost as much as the entire normal operation of his new place, he said.

In addition to the rice, which, he says will be his last fling in that field, he has some clover and alfalfa in California and some oats here. He also wintered about 200 head of stock here last season.

At present he is carrying 45 yearlings and 75 head of cows and calves, but preparation for the future has been the main work so far.

Several ditches have been either cleaned, rebuilt or relocated. Four hundred and forty acres of land have been leveled to grade and 300 of them have been seeded in grass. The other 140 will be seeded this fall after the rice is harvested early next month, Lynn said.

The leveling operation has brought the land to level with one tenth of a foot fall per 100 feet for most of the land.

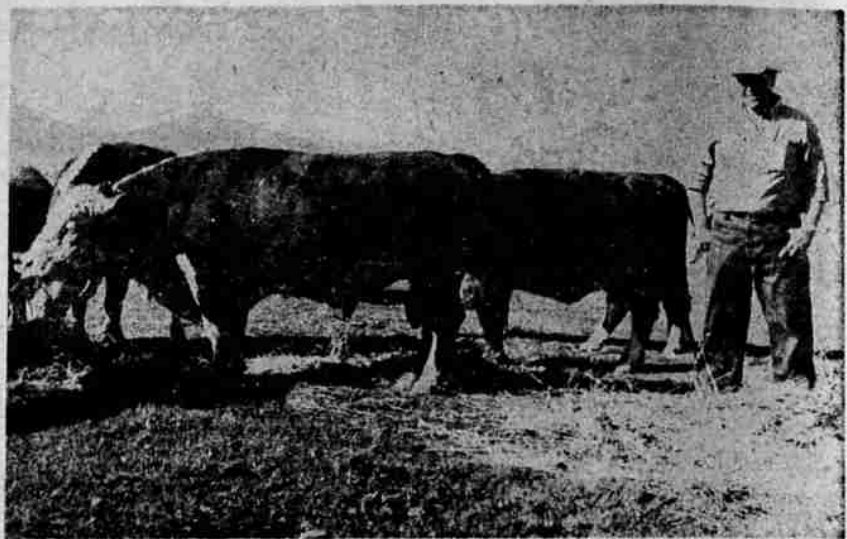
Lynn says he plans to convert the entire ranch to levelled, irrigated pasture for cattle. A partner in California will take over the cow and calf and wintering parts of the operation.

His present program, which is subject to change, will be based strictly on young cattle, which probably will be purchased or shipped from the south in January or February and sold as feeders in September and October. Lynn figures that by converting the entire ranch into grass, he can run in excess of 2,000 head.

In line with his opinion that drainage is fully as important as irrigation on land such as his, Lynn is improving and in some cases relocating several of his drainage ditches.

He has gravity water intake from six units on the Klamath River, but must pump out his drainage water.

"When I got here," he said,



BOB LYNN and one of his registered polled Hereford bulls from the Goldmine string at Santa Barbara, California who is called "Curley." Lynn bought 1,400 acres of land south of the Keno highway and is developing it into a stock ranch and duck club. At present he is busy improving the land and irrigation system.

"the drainage ditches, like most of the rest of the place, were badly run down and clogged. We spent a great part of last winter just working them over and picking up junk that would impair water flow."

He said that the previous owner of the ranch was in ill health and unable to properly supervise the

ranch, with the result that it "went down hill in a hurry — a place can do that."

In addition to the ranch itself, Lynn anticipates considerable income from the sale of duck and goose hunting rights on the place, which includes the old Klamath River Duck Club. Lynn says that "some of the best hunting in the

country" is on the river alongside of his land.

NEXT WEEK

The Herald and News Magazine Section of Klamath Basin Living for next week will be devoted to National Fire Prevention Week. Watch for this issue and learn how you can make your home safe for the winter by discovering fire hazards which are common causes of disaster.

County Agent Reports

Farm News Briefed From The County Agent Radio Programs

By WALT JENDRZEJEWSKI

Potato harvest has started in Klamath Basin. Twenty-six carloads had moved by Monday, September 24. A year ago, only three cars were shipped in September.

Observations and reports from growers indicate a considerably better crop than last season. Acreage apparently is not much greater but yield prospects are better.

Prevention of mechanical damage at the harvest offers much opportunity for increasing value of the crop.

Cuts and bruises results not only in much cullage, but minor defects and blemishes detract from attractiveness of graded potatoes. Reduction of bruising at harvest can do much to increase consumption of potatoes.

Excessive field speed of diggers is accused as a cause of mechanical damage. Field speed over 1½ miles per hour is considered excessive for many soils.

Excessive draper chain speed is considered another cause of damage. Drapers should run five to ten per cent faster than digger speed. Around 150 feet per minute.

Good digging requires some soil to be carried up the draper to a point above the last set of agitators. One set of kickers is enough for many soils.

If potatoes jump and bounce on the draper it's running too fast or there are too many agitators.

Buckers and swampers bruise many potatoes by handling pick-up sacks too roughly. Paddling on truck beds prevents much bruising. Much damage occurs when stuns are unloaded. The sacks are often emptied very roughly into elevators in the cellar.

Height of elevators is sometimes not kept adjusted properly. Potatoes which drop six feet off the end of an elevator, roll down the pile and crash into bin walls often shatter.

Drops of more than six inches are considered too rough. Fast moving, hard bumping potatoes lose much quality from minor defects and blemishes, as well as from serious damage and cullage. In combine harvesting constant

attention to height of the conveyor boom can reduce bruising.

In loading bulk trucks in the field, better team work can often be obtained by selecting one driver to load all trucks.

A good practice in loading bulk trucks is to start about 2-3 of the way forward and to the right of center, then work forward and backward evenly and complete filling from far side to near side.

Over half of the Basin crop is being bulk harvested.

One study covering 15 machine harvesting operations and eight farms hand picking found average labor costs of 5½ cents per cwt. for machine harvest and 16.6 cents per cwt. labor cost for hand picking.

Average investment in equipment for machine harvest was reported at \$5,000 compared to \$600 for hand picking.

The conclusion reached indicated that farmers producing as few as 3,000 cwt. might be able to efficiently use machine harvest bulk handling.

Here in Klamath a good bulkler is capable of harvesting more than 100 acres or over 25,000 cwt. in a harvest season if soil conditions are suitable and rows are not too short.

Combine harvesting reduces the number of times potatoes must be moved. Damage which occurs in bucking and swamping and unloading can be reduced. But the combine must be operated properly or bruising in the operation can exceed bruising in a well run hand picking operation.

Dates for the Klamath Basin Potato Festival at Merrill have been announced as October 19, 20 and 21. Festival management and Potato Growers Association directors are asking for a lot of good potato exhibits.

WATER

Dairymen report that young calves need water in addition to the daily milk allowance. Lack of water may be responsible for limited hay consumption. And the sooner a calf can be induced to eat hay, the better results will be.

Reserve Totals For '56 Listed

Sign up in the acreage reserve for 1956 as published in the County Agent magazine, is reported below: Corn, 282,000 agreements, on 4.5 million acres pledged, for a maximum total payment of \$151 million and an average of \$33.69 per acre.

Wheat, 98,000 agreements on 5 million acres for a maximum total payment of \$40 million and an average of \$7.80 per acre.

Peanuts, 5,000 agreements on 40,000 acres for total payments of \$35,000 and an average of \$13.34 per acre.

Rice, 1,163 agreements, on 27,000 acres for \$1.4 million on payments, and an average per-acre payment of \$49.65.

Cotton, 91,000 agreements on 1.1 million acres for a total payment of \$26 million and an average of \$24 per acre.

Tobacco, 18,700 agreements on 31,000 acres for total payments of \$6.4 million and a per-acre average payment of \$209.

Soil bank operation is not expected to have much effect on 1956 production, despite the large sign-up for the acreage reserve. Most of the land going into this reserve, which is for allotment crops only, comes out of areas hard hit by drought, or from allotment under-planting planned before the bank went into effect, and from other land for which not much was planned anyway this year.

"Total number of agreements in the 1956 acreage reserve is more than 500,000 or about 10 per cent

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