

# Tillamook Dairyman Grassman For 1956

Hans Leuthold, a Tillamook dairy farmer who is well known for his purebred Guernsey cattle, was named Oregon "Grassman of the Year" for 1956 by the Portland Chamber of Commerce. Second place in the 6th annual "grassman" contest was awarded to Alvin Wagenblast, Morrow County Hereford raiser from Lexington.

Leuthold and Wagenblast will receive cash awards of \$300 and \$200 from the United States National Bank, Portland, at a special "grassman" luncheon sponsored by the Portland Chamber on December 3. At this time the Pacific Northwest "Grassman" will be publicly announced and presented with a \$750 cash award from R. M. Wade & Co., Portland irrigation equipment manufacturer.

The Tillamook "grassman" keeps 100 registered Guernseys, 55 of which are in production, on a 60 acre dairy farm near Tillamook. Like other successful "grassmen" he has been improving his pastures over a long period of time.

Among the impressive features of Leuthold's grass program is his management. He calculates his irrigation on the basis of soil and soil moisture tests. Cattle pasturing is carefully controlled and liberal amounts of lime, commercial fertilizer and barnyard manure are applied. His "grass" mixtures include Alta Fescue, Akaroa orchard grass, Ladino, Red and New Zealand White clovers.

In the Tillamook area it is a problem to keep improved varieties of grass ahead of the inferior native grasses such as bent and "June" grass. Normally it is necessary to plow and reseed pastures every six to eight years. Leuthold has found that through proper fertilizing and management the more palatable and nutritious varieties of "grasses" can dominate the pastures. He contends that improved varieties can be maintained indefinitely if fertilizer elements and lime are used in correct proportions and amounts as called for by current soil tests. Entering the ever-present alta fescue debate, Leuthold finds no palatability problem and he attributes this to the use of phosphate and lime.

His purebred Guernseys, well known in Northwest show-ring circles, had a DHIA herd average of 469 pounds butterfat and 9241 pounds milk for 1955. This year at the Oregon State Fair, he captured seven firsts, five seconds, and four thirds in show-ring competi-

tion. Leuthold began farming with his father in 1936 and took over management of the farm in 1940. He began his grass improvement program in 1940 and by 1954 had the entire 60 acres under the type of management and grass desired. He has not devoted all of this time to grass and cows, however, Mr. Leuthold has been an officer of more than a dozen local and state organizations. He is past president of the Oregon Guernsey Breeders Association and has been a 4-H Club leader for the past 13 years.

The Leuthold farm is a neat, attractive place and has been visited by numerous farm groups. The Leutholds have two sons, David, 15 and Danny H. Hans Leuthold won the Tillamook County contest over 13 other entries and was nominated to the state contest jointly by the Tillamook Junior and Senior Chapters of Commerce. He will represent Oregon in the 1956 regional contest.

Alvin Wagenblast, winner of second place honors, has done an outstanding job with grass on a 560 acre Morrow County farm in seven years. In 1949 the place was described as a weed patch when he purchased it. At that time the place supported at most a dozen beef cows; today he runs 113 head of Hereford cattle.

The Morrow County "grassman" story portrays real "boot-strap" effort. Since 1949 steady improvements have been made on the ranch through the addition of irrigation, seeding of improved forage varieties, and proper management. This year his bottom land

produced eight tons of hay per acre. Here it is intermediate wheat grass, Akaroa orchard grass and alta fescue that are doing the job in combination with Vernal, Talent and Ladak alfalfa. He has chosen these varieties of alfalfa

because of their differences in maturity dates, thus permitting one man to do most of the harvesting work.

On the unirrigated higher lands, Nomad alfalfa is grown with crested wheatgrass and bulbous blue-

grass. Alvin Wagenblast operates the ranch with his wife, Lee, and two sons, John 9 and Steve 7. He is active in his community, and was nominated to the state contest by the Morrow County Farm Bureau.



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