LITTLE BO-GOOSE; but this wild goose hasn't lost her sheep. The feathered friend dropped out of the sky on a farm near Selah, Washington, and has apparently adopted a flock of sheep there. And unlike Mary, it only goes where the lamb goes while other less-finicky fowl head South. Let's hope no hunter sees the goose and cooks its you know what.

Alfalfa Seed Tests Studied

Assurance of varietal purity and identity in alfalfa seed is essential if farmers who plant this important pasture, hay and soil building crop are to realize maximum benefits from improved varieties developed by plant breeders, according to tests carried out by the Agricultural Research Service, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and cooperating state agricultural experiment stations.

Commenting on results of cooperative trueness-to-variety tests, Dr. Karl Quisenberry, assistant administrator of the Agricultural Research Service, explains that appearance alone is not an indicator of genetic purity and identity in seed. In fact, he says, even an expert cannot tell by looking at alfalfa seed whether they have the improved characteristics that have been built into them by plant breeders—such as high yield and seedling vigor in Narragansett, stem-nematode resistance in Lahontan, wilt resistance and high yield in Vernal, Ranger, and Buffalo, or other good qualities that are a part of the genetic make-up of such improved varieties as Caliverde and Williamsburg alfalfas.

"That's why use of certified seed, which insures varietal identity, becomes so important," Dr. Quisenberry declares. "Based on cooperative tests carried out in Indiana and Minnesota during 1955 and 1956 on seed lots of certified Ranger and 'non-certified ranger' alfalfa, a farmer who purchases and plants seed on 'non-certified ranger' has less than a 50 per cent chance of getting seed of Ranger performance."

Plant breeders have developed many varieties in recent years that have specific characteristics of special value to farmers. Ranger, for example, is a variety having high yield, winter hardiness, and wilt resistance. Winter-hardiness in Ranger and similar varieties is indicated by late-fall regrowth characterized by a low growing "rosette" appearance as contrasted with the tall and erect growth of nonhardy varieties. In the Minnesota-Indiana tests a standard of 80 to 99 per cent of the plants with fall regrowth of a rosetting type was found to be indicative of the Ranger variety.

USDA To Buy Ground Beef

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that offers have been requested to supply approximately 15 million pounds of frozen ground beef for the school lunch program.

The purchase of frozen ground beef will be with funds appropriated under the National School Lunch Act (Section 6). The law provides that a portion of the funds appropriated each year for the school lunch program may be used to purchase foods which will help meet the nutritive requirements of school children.

GRAND CHAMPION BRINGS $5,940

SHOWN ABOVE IS "TOM" a 1,070 pound Hereford selected as grand champion steer of the 1957 American Royal Livestock Show. The steer brought a final bid of $5,940 from Putsch's 210 Restaurant on the Plaza. Shown above, left to right, are Miss Malinda Berry, Queen of the American Royal, Stillwater, Oklahoma; Eddie Williams of Williams Meat Company; Mr. and Mrs. Putsch; and 17-year-old Gary Minish of Dysart, Iowa, exhibitor of the champion.

County Agent Reports

Farm News Briefed From The County Agent Radio Programs

By RAY O. PETERSEN

Growing better pastures and managing them to get the greatest amount of meat or milk per acre is the objective of most livestock producers. It is difficult for a stock grower to determine this for himself so research by experiment stations have been set up to help find out the best pasture mixtures and management practices that give the greatest returns.

The value of legumes in a pasture mixture is brought out by trials conducted at Washington State College. A pasture containing orchard grass and Ladino clover. The yield of feed was slightly higher on the grass alone but the milk produced per acre was greater from the pasture with the clover. On a 40 cow herd grazing 165 days per year, the increased milk production on the clover and grass mixture amounted to $2,180 for 1955 and $1,580 for 1956 over the straight grass pasture. Trials with beef cattle have given similar increases in beef per acre where there was clover in the mixtures. The bloat hazard limits the amount of clover that can be used in a pasture. New drugs that can be fed in salt to cattle on pastures that cause bloat have greatly reduced the bloat problem in many cases.

The increased forage secured from strip grazing (rotate area grazed each day) over regular rotational grazing of five to 10 day periods is shown by trials in Wisconsin. In these trials it required .9 acre per cow to graze the season under the rotational system and only .5 acre per cow when the same kind of pasture was strip grazed.

In studying the methods of harvesting of forage the Wisconsin researchers found that making hay or silage out of a given area of forage produced more nutrients (4,000 pounds) and required less area to support a cow (.46 acres) than green chopping the forage when produced 3,900 pounds of nutrients and required .67 acres for a cow. Strip grazing provided less nutrients per acre (2,500 pounds) and required more acres (.9) to support a cow for the season.

To determine what method of harvesting forage gives the greatest net return, the costs of harvesting by these different methods must be considered. Obviously the strip grazing is less expensive although the yield of forage was less.

Ag Exports Below 1956

U.S. agricultural exports during the first quarter of the 1957-58 fiscal year were estimated today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 935 million dollars, or five per cent under the 980 million dollar total for the comparable period of 1956-57. Agricultural exports for the full 1956-57 year set an all-time high of 4.7 billion dollars.

The total for the first quarter of 1957-58 is ahead of the level of 750 million dollars in the corresponding period of 1955-56, and the total of 580 million dollars in the similar period of 1953-54.

Compared with a year earlier, exports of some U.S. farm products in the three months July-through-September, 1957 were still ahead or holding up well, while others lagged. Corn, soybeans and flaxseed were well ahead both in value and quantity, but cotton was only slightly ahead. Tobacco, fruits and vegetables were about the same. Wheat, rice, barley, grain sorghums, oats, cottonseed oil, soybean oil, lard and tallow were behind. Higher prices have been maintaining the export value for tallow at the rate of a year earlier.

September, 1957 agricultural exports estimated at 300 million dollars compares with actual shipment value of 368 million dollars in September, 1956 and 313 million dollars for August, 1957.

The 1956-57 record agricultural export total was partially the result of some countries financing their purchases through reducing their foreign dollar reserves. Some foreign customers, such as Japan and the Netherlands, experienced losses in reserves, or, like the United Kingdom, had a tight balance-of-payments position. Consequently, such countries are likely to take steps in 1957-58 to recoup earlier losses, and to increase reserves by reducing purchases.

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BULLETIN NO. 14
DATE 11-12-57

JOINT POTATO COMMITTEE MARKETING REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING November 9, 1957
POTATO DISPOSITION REPORT IN WESTERN PRODUCTION AREAS COVERED BY POTATO MARKETING ORDERS (CARLOTS - 360 cwt.)
OREGON-CALIFORNIA POTATO COMMITTEE, BOX 1071, MEDFORD, OREGON

Disposition of Shipments	Oregon-California Season to 11-8-57	Oregon-California Season to 11-9-56	Washington Season to 11-8-57	Washington Season to 11-9-56	Idaho & Eastern Ore. Season to 11-8-57	Idaho & Eastern Ore. Season to 11-9-56	Area 2 San Luis, Colorado Season to 10-31-57	Area 2 San Luis, Colorado Season to 10-26-56	Area 3 N.M., Colorado Season to 11-8-57	Area 3 N.M., Colorado Season to 11-8-56	Calif. Long White Comm. Season to 10-5-57 Final
A. Above U.S. standards△											
1. By carriers											
Rail	934	1157	4478	10166	13211	13014	605	357	350	501	11801
Truck	1320	1428	7818	1592	7921	9314	1632	1172	5934	5340	9510
Total	2254	2585	12296	11758	21132	22328	2237	1529	6284	5841	21376
2. By grades:											
U. S. 1	1971	1936	11028	11405	12519	10668	1932	1602	3791	4873	17257
U. S. 2	493	650	2143	2713	1821	1610	235	51	1463	1968	4119
U. S. Comm'l.			75	40			60	177			
Mixed					2792	2150					
Total	2464	2586	13246	14158	16132	14428	2227	1729	5254	6841	21376
3. By varieties											
Early Ohio		3		18	512	315			237	215	
Kate	29	2	627	528	865	842	1953	1358	3107	4013	3484
Whites	139	252	1498	2080	2317	1313			1754	1451	17920
Russets	2080	2135	10771	11132	12994	11133	226	313	186	447	
Burbanks	15	22			121	177					
Mixed & Others	1	3			311	353	18	58			
Total	2464(76%)	2585(76%)	13246(76%)	14158(76%)	16132(76%)	14428(76%)	2227(68%)	1729(68%)	5254(80%)	6841(80%)	21376(84%)
B. Below U.S. standards											
1. Food & Feed△											
Canning	80	29	1	5					38	127	426
Freezing			250	114							
Export	3	1	6	33							
Seed	43	42	40	7	48	39					435
Dehydration		52									
Potato Chips	86	110	294	293							
Other					3417△	2809△	81△	611△			
2. Non-Food△											
Livestock Feed	463	397	1540	1018	1113		51	9	1284	1283	9966
Starch			1173	1178	2317		143	179			
Diverted									66		
Total	675(24%)	631(24%)	3304(24%)	2654(24%)	6895(24%)	2848(24%)	275(32%)	798(32%)	1388(20%)	1410(20%)	10827(16%)
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	3139	3216	16550	16812	23027	17276	2502	2527	6642	7251	32203

△ Primarily table stock but may include few shipments to processing plants meeting U.S. grade and size regulations.
△ May into contain high percentage of U.S. 1 and U.S. 2 grades.
△ Freezing, dehydration and flour within Idaho-Eastern Oregon production area.
△ Market shipments reserved for seed, farm table, local sales and waste within Area 2, San Luis, Colorado production area.
△ Primarily straight culls.

(Total 1956-57 Season - 109,925)