



HAY WAFERS that require only one third the storage space of baled hay, yet preserve all the feed value, have received the "go-ahead as dairy cattle feed in Oregon State College trials supervised by Dr. I. R. Jones, dairy specialist. The chopped hay is cold-pressed into logs three inches in diameter and sliced into one-inch thick wafers.

Reports On Hay Wafer Tests Show Promise For Dairymen

Hay "wafers" for dairy cows—a new method of compressing chopped alfalfa—proved superior in butterfat production and equal in all other respects to finely ground pelleted hay in feeding trials at Oregon State College.

Dr. I. R. Jones, OSC dairy scientist, says the wafers combine the advantages of easy-to-handle pelleted hay and the feed value of high quality baled or loose alfalfa. OSC dairy technologist Benjamin F. Magill conducted the 12-weeks' trials just completed.

Comparison of baled hay, pellets, and wafers showed no real differences in total milk production, amount of feed eaten, or body weight. However, test animals produced slightly more butterfat while on baled hay or wafers than when eating pellets. Each of the 18 test cows was on each type of feed for four weeks. Hay in all three forms was good quality alfalfa grown on the same farm near Hermiston.

The OSC scientists say their findings confirm earlier reports that finely ground alfalfa tends to lower butterfat production. While widely used for livestock feed, such pellets apparently pass through the cow's rumen too rapidly for maxi-

mum production of organic acids that are synthesized into butterfat. Wafers are compressed from hay chopped into one inch lengths and are comparable to long hay in the time they remain in the rumen for fermentation.

Hay wafers are three inches in diameter and about one inch thick. The test lot was made by a western Washington concern in essentially the same manner that pressed logs are manufactured. The "logs" of hay are sliced into wafers as they come from the machine.

Big advantages of either the wafers or pellets are reduced bulk and adaptability to mechanical handling that cuts out much expensive hand labor. Wafers can be stored in about one third the space required for baled hay. Pellets are only one fourth as bulky as baled hay.

Test lots of wafers were compressed from baled hay, but the manufacturer now plans to run trials using loose hay. Cutting out the baling operation, now common for most hay handling, would offset much of the cost of making wafers, Dr. Jones explains.

Also in the planning stage is a

portable hay wafering machine. The manufacturer believes the future for the machine looks best as a custom-operated enterprise for community use.



DALE W. STUART of Salem has been appointed executive secretary of the Oregon Fryer Commission and will work with retail stores, processors and growers to promote Oregon's fryer industry. With the members of the commission he will set up and execute the advertising budget and will supervise the collection of assessments made on Oregon-grown fryers.



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
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GARDEN PLANNING

March is a good month to plan your outdoor spring building program. If you want to enjoy patio and gardens during this summer, you should have your work laid out for an early start when the weather clears. For tables and benches, permanent settees, decking and even fences, you will want to use the most durable woods obtainable. Experts recommend western red cedar or tough, and long-lived Douglas fir which weather well and can stand rain, snow, heat and cold for many years.

Cowmen Veto Self-Help Plan

Oregon cattlemen voted decisively against forming a beef commission, Robert J. Steward, director of the State Department of Agriculture, announced February 27 following a meeting of the board chosen to review the referendum ballot. The vote was 2152 against, and 942 for.

Steward said that about three fourths of those who registered their production voted. Nearly 3,100 producers who own 377,010 cattle (taxroll basis) voted. Well over the one third total state production (part of a dual requirement to pass the proposal) was represented in the ballot.

Steward issued this statement after he was advised of the vote: "I think it is unfortunate that the livestock producers of Oregon have seen fit to turn down a formula designed to enable producers to help themselves. The commodity commission concept in Oregon is clearly subject to local control by the producers themselves."

"I predict that in the foreseeable future we shall see a national check-off plan for beef promotion; while that may be very desirable Oregon producers as such will have little if any voice in the amount of the assessment or in the manner in which funds will be spent."

The board of review which examined the records of the referendum procedure and looked

over many of the ballots and registration forms was composed of E. R. Jackman, range specialist at Oregon State College, and Freeman A. Holmer, head of the elections division for the state of Oregon. Holmer substituted for David O'Hara, former head of the elections division, who was out of town at the time set for the review.

The board stated that all records were in order and the entire procedure was in accordance with the commodity commission act.

Some scattering votes cast before midnight, February 24, and received by the department February 28 or later will be counted but will not affect the outcome.

Noted novelist Zane Grey was born in Zanesville, Ohio.

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MASS PRODUCTION. These bumper lambs are taking their lunch cafeteria style out at the Bob Norris ranch in Henley.