

Dairy Report

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The number of dairy cows in the United States has dropped 13 per cent since 1940. Oregon has decreased their dairy cattle numbers by 30 per cent and Klamath County numbers have dropped 38 per cent during this period. Even though dairy cattle numbers are the lowest in many years, milk production in the United States reached an all time high in 1957.

The more dairymen can use what he has in the way of equipment and the longer he can get the best job done with it the longer he will survive. Much thought and planning should be given ways and means of keeping down the investment in new machinery and duplication of machinery investment.

Some thought should be given the point in production that is most profitable and while more production might be had with more expensive ways, the question to be answered is, does it make more profit? A working knowledge by the operator of the analysis of the feeds he is using is always a help and he must look to the extension people for a large portion of this help. Full use must be made of locally grown feeds.

Of course no program is complete without a thorough understanding that the feed is usually no better than the soil it is grown on whether you buy feed or raise it.

We must, in the next 10 years, keep an adequate supply of quality dairy products on the market at a price that will give us a fair profit.

The development of new methods of marketing has possibly just begun and while the methods of handling are fairly well set for the next 10 years, apparently, the same reason may facilitate more movement of milk and the possibility of shifts in production areas.

In order to compete with other marketing areas we need to look to increased efficiency of production. Not only in the economic size of herds but in quality of cattle, feed and labor we use and the efficiency with which we use them.

Any given area can determine the economical size of herds to run on a given size of farm or in larger operations, how many cows to the man working is most efficient.

During the past seven years the local Grade "A" dairymen have been carrying on an advertising program which has entailed a large investment and has taken considerable time and effort. Through this program, we have been able to not only sell more milk, but also to educate the public on what we as an industry mean to our community. We have been able to point out to our customers that we pay local taxes, which finances local schools, local roads, and many other local programs, which are beneficial to local people. Also, we are able to remind them that we and our employees are good customers of other local businesses, who in turn, make their contributions toward a greater Klamath Basin.

About four years ago this same group of dairymen felt that it was only a matter of time until the termination of the old milk marketing act, and in order that each producer could have assurance that he would be treated on equitable basis without state supervision, a market pool was deemed essential. Therefore, we organized a market pool and hired management.

A little over three years ago, Oregon Milk Producers were reorganized, with its chief function being "the orderly exchange of milk between pools." Without OMP in this day of paper cartons and bulk tankers, our market could be greatly jeopardized overnight.

It would be hard to argue

against the fact that local promotion, market pooling, and affiliation with Oregon Milk Producers have been contributing factors toward stabilizing our industry. The committee strongly urge their continuation in our plans for future years.

The dairy industry has taken quite an advance through better breeding. The nation as a whole has shown about two per cent less cows, and about one per cent more milk. In Klamath County, artificial insemination was started in May of 1949, and has been a large contributing factor towards better production. By use of artificial insemination, it has had a tendency to put better bulls on the market for dairymen.

In Klamath County through our DHIA testing program it has shown better production the last several years, through the use of better bulls, and better management.

Alfalfa hay or silage made from alfalfa, grass or grains should form the basis of any dairy ration. Dairy cattle will use large quantities of these feeds which furnish the lowest cost nutrients in the dairy ration. Grains should be added to the ration according to the amount of milk produced and the size of the cow.

Alfalfa hay should be harvested by the time it is one tenth in bloom and harvested as soon as it is sufficiently dried to permit baling, chopping or stacking. This procedure will preserve a maximum of protein, vitamins, and palatability. Methods of harvesting that cost less should be adopted.

Several dairymen have found silage to be an excellent dairy feed. It comes nearer to replacing which is high in protein can good pasture than any other feed. It is also possible to utilize such plants as grain, peas, grass and weeds hay and make a feed more acceptable to dairy cows than any other method of harvesting. It is also possible to save feeds that have been rained on.

Ensiling a crop saves more nutrients per acre than any other method of harvesting except green chop.

Due to the labor involved in hand feeding silage, it is recommended that self-feeding methods or power feeding equipment be used to reduce the labor of feeding silage.

The committee believes any producer using good alfalfa roughage, use a more simple grain mixture. Home grown or locally grown feeds should form the basis of all dairy rations. All rations should be built around alfalfa hay or silage. Locally grown grains in various combinations will furnish adequate concentrates. Following are several mixtures that might be used: If a producer has good quality alfalfa hay, the following grain mixture is adequate.

1000 pounds rye
 1000 pounds oats
 500 pounds barley
 500 pounds mill run
 400 pounds molasses
 600 pounds clover screenings
 40 pounds salt
 40 pounds bonemeal

Here is another concentrate feed mix that is fairly reasonable with real good alfalfa hay.

1300 pounds oats
 1300 pounds barley
 1000 pounds mill run
 400 pounds molasses
 40 pounds salt
 40 pounds bonemeal

If a producer has a poor grade of alfalfa, his feeding concentrates should be higher in protein and usage of a good grain mixture as is:

400 pounds barley
 520 pounds mill run
 1200 pounds oats
 400 pounds cotton seed meal
 400 pounds molasses
 40 pounds salt
 50 pounds bonemeal
 40 pounds vitamins

A producer should be very careful in selecting his roughage, so he wouldn't have to turn to a high priced concentrate. Good alfalfa hay is cheaper in the long run than the high priced concentrates.

Pasture Recommendations And Management

The many different environmental conditions in this area make it necessary to adapt varieties of pasture to individual needs.

It is a very good idea to plant

simple mixtures adapted to conditions so as to manage them properly and get the maximum forage.

Following are some suggested varieties proven palatable and very productive for dairy animals when properly cared for. Meadow fescue, alta fescue, and orchard grass are some recommended grasses. Alsike and white clover are the most adapted clovers. Alta fescue is recommended only for alkali land where it is the only grass that produces well.

It is recommended that a basic fertilizer containing adequate amounts of phosphates be used to stimulate legume production which in turn produces nitrogen to balance the pasture mixture. A light early spring and late fall application of nitrogen may extend the pasture season. Land with little or no previous fertilizer history or on ground known to be low in phosphates, at least 80 pounds available :2 05 per acre should be applied — 400 pounds of superphosphate or 200 pounds of treble phosphate are needed to gain this basic 80 pounds.

Proper irrigation and pasture rotation are essential for maximum pasture production. By not cropping pastures too short, gives it an opportunity for a quicker comeback. Irrigate pastures immediately after turning cows out and again before turning cows back to graze. This allows about two weeks for cycle. It takes green growth for the plant to produce and it is just ready for its greatest growth about a week after the first irrigation, thus, when you water pasture a second time it is just ready to bloom. It is readily seen that sufficient pasture should be available to carry out this two week rotation period.

The proportion of clover and alfalfa can be partly regulated by use of fertilizer. Phosphate will stimulate clover and nitrogen the grasses. If bloat is a problem, do not apply phosphates, but add nitrogen, also permit the grass to grow higher before cattle are allowed to graze.

Production testing is another vital link in the continued improvement of the Basin's dairy herds. Dairy herd improvement testing carried on in cooperation with the extension service is the best available method of keeping accurate records of dairy herd production.

Definite goals should be set by the individual dairyman in regards to herd average and minimum requirements for individual cows. A strict culling program must be carried on if a dairyman is to continue to improve his herd.

Goals should be set on both a

butterfat and milk production basis for individual cows, and animals not meeting these requirements should be culled from the herd.

As the dairyman progresses with his culling program, attention should be given to type of cattle kept in the herd. Also the good manager will find certain families of cattle will better adapt to his methods of production than will others.

Another important part of a testing and culling program is to be sure that cattle purchased or raised for replacements meet or exceed the minimum standards set for the herd.

It is important to use great care in selecting herd sires. These animals should come only from herds that have adequate production records and meet very high standards.

In summary, the dairyman must production test, rigidly cull, and strive to improve the quality of replacements by the use of better herd sires and heifers selected from tested cows.

The dairyman, especially the producers of grade "A" milk, must constantly strive to maintain a high standard of health in his herd to assure the consumers of "Grade A" dairy products that none but absolutely healthy milk is offered for sale. Also to protect his investment the dairyman must continually guard the health of his herd.

In this area, due to test and slaughter programs carried out in years past and also a healthy climate, bovine tuberculosis is now practically non-existent. Periodic tests should be made however.

For grade "A" milk production, all cows must be tested and be "non-reactors" to blood test for brucellosis (Bang's disease). All reactors must be slaughtered. This program along with vaccination of heifers between four to eight months of age has resulted in clean dairy herds.

Fortunately for the dairyman the beef cattle herds are now on an extensive test and slaughter program and continuing their calf vaccination program. This should soon make it possible to have this area to be accredited as brucellosis free.

The Oregon State Department of Agriculture and the Federal Department of Agriculture should be commended for their work with the brucellosis eradication program.

The milk ring test is now in use for the dairy herds giving the dairyman several tests each year on his herd and blood tests are

only necessary in the event that a milk ring test shows "suspicious."

Lepto spirosis is another abortion type disease. If requested to do so, the state of Oregon will test blood samples for Lepto spirosis, along with the brucellosis test, if necessary.

Calfhood vaccination for black leg and malignant edema should continue. This usually can be done at the same time as vaccination for brucellosis.

Cases of milk fever must be treated immediately, with results mostly satisfactory.

Since the advent of penicillin and the other antibiotics as well as the sulpha drugs it is possible to combat such diseases as mastitis and hemorrhagic septicemia, pneumonia, calf scours, hoof rot, and other infections with reasonable success.

What is known as "hardware disease," an accumulation of pieces of wire or nails and other bits of metal which the animal consumes with its feed, is being successfully treated by major surgery.

As new methods of treatment and material are developed and tested, the solution to more problems should follow. Among these is the possibility of preventing bloat by feeding of penicillin and silicone products.

Here in Klamath County exists a favorable climate to raise healthy stock along with an abundance of good feed. However, the necessity of guarding against the ailments that do present themselves cannot be over emphasized.

Dairying is a competitive business and as such it must meet competition economically. In order to do this, the dairy industry has, in the last several years, made great strides in improving the quality of the products. Improving the quality means, also, improving the materials and supplies used in the production of dairy products, on the farm as well as in the processing plants. This trend is just now going into full swing as bulk handling, pipelines, parlors, etc., are being used more and more. In addition to improving the quality of milk this also increases the quantity by enabling the dairyman to get more production per man hour of labor. This increases in quantity, makes more competition within the industry itself, thus making more efficient operation an economic necessity. During the next few years this will be noticed more and more and will be reflected in the equipment and operation of all dairymen throughout the country.

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