

In the usual methods of statistical reporting, the dairy industry is seldom given credit for beef production whereas this is an important source of meat. Currently available data indicates that probably about 35 percent of our meat supply actually is from the dairy industry.

With about 22 million dairy cows in the U. S., we have a potential of approximately 11 million bull calves annually to go for veal or dairy steers. Cows no longer suitable for milk production also find their way into meat markets, although the form may not be recognizable.

Recent research has been directed toward the economy of raising dairy steers to heavier weights, the best feeding methods, and development of better value meat cuts. Some farm facilities might better be used for this type project than for milk production. One dairy specialist even points out that this might be a profitable way toward retirement for older dairymen.

A cooperative USDA project at Beltsville is presently underway to study systems of feeding and management as related to production of meat from dairy steers, beef and dual purpose animals. Angus, Milking Shorthorn, Holstein and Jersey steers are being used and grown to about two-thirds mature size.

The first crop of cattle is about ready for slaughter and study of carcass values. Within the feed systems used, Holsteins appear to gain at an equal or greater rate than any of the other breeds test-

ed. It is programs like this that make possible high quality food supplies at costs lower than that of other nations. They also tend to make for changes among agricultural producers and processors.

Agricultural research of the type being done with dairy cattle more or less benefits all of us, but sometimes the benefits of agricultural research are more direct.

For instance, the development of the aerosol "bomb" by scientists of the Agricultural Research Service provided millions of Allied Servicemen in World War II with the means of controlling disease-carrying pests. After the war, the aerosol went on to become a billion-dollar industry and the dispenser of over 300 different kinds of products.

Last year, American consumers bought almost 1 billion aerosols to conveniently spray, squirt, mist, foam, or otherwise apply such preparations as hair lacquer, paint, deodorants, window cleaners, deicers, shaving cream, and insecticides.

New knowledge won through agricultural research is vital to our Nation's future.

Often overlooked, however, is the fact that agricultural research is equally vital right now and needs to be continued at a rapid pace. It provides the means of holding our own against the many diseases, insects, parasites, and countless other hazards that threaten to drag down agricultural efficiency and cut into the incomes of farmers and the well being of all of us.

For instance, while research on livestock has been giving us better fleeces, meatier carcasses, and increased milk production, at the same time livestock producers find an ever-increasing number of problems that threaten to nullify these research gains.

Modern trends toward greater movement and concentration of livestock increase the threats of diseases and parasites. Research is being challenged to keep them from getting the upper hand.

The August issue of "Agricultural Research" points out that our difficulties in coping with shipping fever, anaplasmosis, tuberculosis, and parasites tends to offset gains against brucellosis and screw-worms.

Shipping fever continues to be a costly livestock condition. Despite our best research efforts, really effective methods of controlling shipping fever have not been found.

We are barely holding our own

Vernonia Eagle

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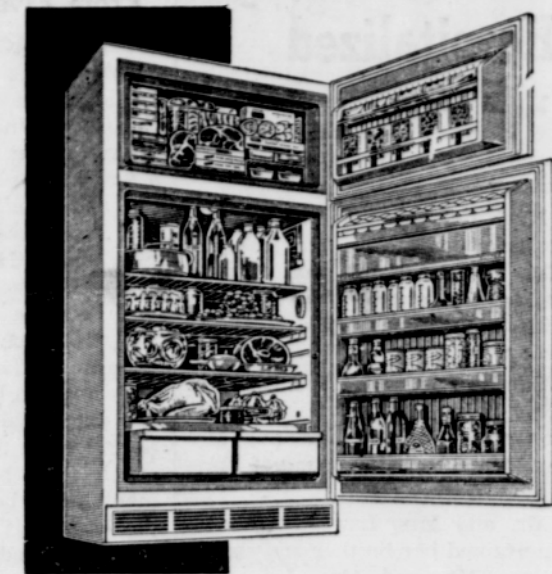
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IT'S A PRIVILEGE AND A PLEASURE TO LIVE IN VERNONIA

against anaplasmosis. We're still looking for clearcut ways to control and eradicate this complicated disease on a nationwide basis. Tuberculosis has been on the upswing for the last two years and threatens to outrun research efforts. Mucosal disease of cattle baffles researchers. Both cause and ways of preventing it are unknown. Bovine leukosis is on the increase. Research is struggling to learn as much as possible about this disease. We lack effective control for more than 50 percent of the parasites affecting cattle. Parasites continue to gnaw at growth rate, production, and efficiency of feed use. Letting up in any area of agricultural research means loss of hard-earned gains as well as failure to move ahead. Weed plots established in the Clatskanie area last spring in bentgrass seed fields were surveyed last week just before harvest operations got under way. These plots were established as a means of evaluating the effectiveness of some of the presently available herbicides in controlling broadleaf weeds in the bentgrass seed fields. All of our Astoria and Seaside bentgrass is grown under certification. This assures the buyer of such seed that he is getting a high quality weed-free product. At the same time, some of these weeds can cause problems for the grower as their presence may cause his seed to fail to pass certification tests. Because the bentgrasses tend to be somewhat more susceptible to spray injury than many other grasses, such damage was one of the principal factors under consideration. Plots were placed in an

old established Astoria stand of Paul Neuman, a young stand and a spring planted field of Jess Lewis. Varying degrees of weed control were obtained by the different materials which included 2, 4-D amine, 2,4-D low volatile ester, silvex or 2, 4-TP, and a new material called banvel-D. These herbicides were applied at 2 or 3 different rates, but no visual evidence of injury to the grass was present at this time. Early in the season before the grass started to head, the plots sprayed with silvex showed some slight differences in color. This condition disappeared as the season progressed. The choice of a herbicide by a grower will depend upon the particular weeds involved. Some weeds are susceptible to sprays such as 2, 4-D which is quite inexpensive. Other weeds, such as sorrel and chickweed, are not damaged by 2, 4-D, but can be controlled with the use of a material such as banvel-D, but at a cost of about \$10 per acre. Food and Drug Administration approval has not been granted for the use of all of these materials, particularly the banvel-D, which carries an experimental label at this time. Several years ago five Tennessee Valley Authority test demonstration farms were established as a means of checking the response to fertilizer using the materials manufactured by the TVA. Under this program, the rates of fertilizer were determined by soil tests. The TVA materials used were made available at reduced rates, but the cooperating farmers had to pay freight so that the advantage over standard material was slight. Of the original five farms parti-

cipating, two remain in the program. They are the C. M. Kelley farm, Rainier, and Beaver Farms at Clatskanie. Changes in farm programs, participation in the Soil Bank and sale of the farm eliminated the farms of Walter H. Loyd, Deer Island, Everett Skeans, Rainier, and Stanley Chandler, Delena. In addition to consideration of soils and crops response, the economics of the farm is of concern and particularly any changes that occur as a result of the changed fertilizer program. The department of agricultural economics at Oregon State assists with this part of the program. Last week we received a large farm sign for each of the farms still remaining in our program. We hope to be able to get these up in the very near future so that they may help to point up the cooperation of these two farm owners. The results of the fertilizer program have been most gratifying. The use of the TVA materials, mostly of high analysis phosphorus has resulted in increased production as well as improved stands of forage crops. Of course, potash and other fertilizer materials have been applied as needed. Through this program it has been possible to demonstrate that a legume could be successfully produced in the high organic soils of the Clatskanie dike lands and that economical use could be made of greater amounts of fertilizers on hill lands. Only five or six counties in the state are involved in this program, but similar test farms are in existence in other states. Honey bees, like many other animals, insects, or crops that we have in the nation, are not native to the United States, but were in-

troduced into this country about 1638. These almost tireless workers provided valuable pollination services for us besides supplying a high quality food item. If control of tansy ragwort is achieved, it will depend to a degree upon the interest and public spiritedness of individuals willing to stop to pull and destroy individual plants wherever they are found. Large patches of the weed generally receive attention from the weed inspector and landowner alike. Individual plants are apt to escape notice or deemed not worthy of attention. However, they can be just as serious from the standpoint of seeding the countryside. With the bright yellow blossoms of tansy ragwort making the plant obvious at this time, it is only natural that we get a considerable number of telephone and office calls regarding control of this poisonous weed. We are glad to pass these reports along to Henry Thompson, County Weed Control Inspector. Unfortunately, there are some related plants that resemble tansy ragwort closely. Probably there are a number of instances in which someone has spent needless time and effort in pulling these plants. The common wood groundsel is probably most apt to be confused with tansy ragwort as the leaf and general plant characteristics are very much the same, but the flowers are distinctly different. Tansy ragwort generally has 13 petals or rays while the wood groundsel has cylindrical blossom heads without obvious petals. Although closely related to tansy ragwort it is not known whether the woodland groundsel is poisonous or not, since animals avoid it and its nauseating odor.