

Livestock and Pasture

358 Elm Avenue, Auburn, California 95603
Telephone 885-4551

Memorial Building, Grass Valley, California 95945
Telephone 273-4563

Notes

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Jim Street

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TAHOE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FIELD DAY

Plans are progressing for the Tahoe Cattlemen's Association Field Day to be held at the Bickford Livestock Ranch, Lincoln on September 12, 1970.

A very interesting program is being arranged and will include reports on:

- *The Beef Cattle Section of the recent Livestock Symposium.
- *Multiple Births in Beef Cattle.
- *Current Activities of the California Cattlemen's Association.

In addition demonstrations are planned to point out:

- *The Results of Successful Freeze Branding.
- *Modern Beef Cattle through Performance Records and Selection based on Records.

SCIENTIFIC GAINS IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

During the past twenty-five years livestock scientists have accomplished the following spectacular results:

- *Doubled the average milk production of each dairy cow.
- *Reduced the conversion rate of feed to meat on fed beef steers from a ratio of 8 or 9 to 1 down to 7 to 1.
- *Reduced the age span for beef steers finished for market from 2½ years or older to 14 months or less.
- *Increased the daily weight gain of beef cattle by 30% to 50% and have improved feed efficiency by 33%.
- *Increased the amount of ham and loin in hogs by more than 20%.

*Reduced the amount of feed needed for a hog to put on a pound of weight by 10%.

The results of these increased efficiencies have benefited all consumers since they are paying much less for their meat, milk and eggs than they would be if these scientific gains had not been made.

FACE FLIES IN AREA (?)

According to unconfirmed reports, face flies have been reported in Placer County. Cattle owners are alerted to check their herds at frequent intervals to determine if face flies are present. The pest looks very much like the common housefly but is much more annoying to cattle and horses. They concentrate on the face and feed on the liquid secretions from the eyes and nose.

Besides being a pest on the face of the cattle, the face fly has been shown capable to transmitting pink eye (infectious keratitis).

Chemical control applications directly to the animal are more successful than other techniques which have been attempted such as physical-mechanical and biological control. Chemical wipes, smears, and mist or wet sprays to the face and head areas have not given as good or as long fly control as chemically charged dust bags. (See the July 14, 1970 issue of Livestock and Pastures Notes for information on dust bags or write to this office.)

INCREASED PRODUCTION THROUGH SUPPLEMENTAL IRRIGATION

What effect did the spring drought have on the yield of good annual legume pasture this year? This is what Jewell Meyer, Extension

Area Technologist, with headquarters in Modesto, and I attempted to find out. We managed to appropriate a sprinkler system and put three inches of water on half a uniform area on April 3, 1970. This was about a month after the last good spring rain. Then on May 19, 1970 we harvested 5 randomly selected plots from each of the sprinkled and unsprinkled areas. Here are the results converted to a 15% dry matter basis:

LOT NO.	UN-SPRINKLED	LOT NO.	SPRINKLED
1	1000	6	2200
2	600	7	2100
3	800	8	2200
4	700	9	1500
5	1200	10	1900
Ave.	960		2000

The dry matter yield was more than doubled in this trial and we estimated that the green weight was nearly tripled by sprinkling. If the irrigation had been applied earlier, before the top soil had dried out, the results might have been even more spectacular.

Another practice which has been tried with excellent results is sprinkling up annual legumes in the early fall, between the 1st and 15th of October.

Reminder - Mrs. Edie Dennison, President of the CowBelles, announces Branding Door ceremonies for the Red Barns at the Nevada County District Fair in Grass Valley on August 29 and the Auburn District Fair in Auburn on September 19. Bring your branding irons and join in the festivities.

BEEF RETURNS FROM IRRIGATED PASTURES

Many abandoned orchards in the foothill area of Placer County are being reclaimed and seeded to irrigated pastures. One of the big questions most of the operators have on their minds is--will the irrigated pasture pay?

Some recent work by Colorado State University research workers may provide a useful approach to irrigated pasture operators in this area. The following tables convert tons of air-dry irrigated pasture forage to pounds of beef and gross sales per acre on both a yearling steer and cow calf basis.

Table 1.--Irrigated pasture conversion table.

Tons of air-dry usable forage produced	Pounds of TDN per acre	Pounds of saleable beef produced/A through yearling steers	Pounds of saleable beef produced/A through cow-calf*
1 Ton	1160	200	115
2 Ton	2320	400	235
3 Ton	3480	600	355
4 Ton	4640	800	470
5 Ton	5800	1000	590
6 Ton	6960	1200	705
7 Ton	8120	1400	825
8 Ton	9280	1600	945

*This is total wt. of calves produced per acre.

Table 2.--Estimated gross sales/acre based on forage production. (to nearest dollar)

For yearling steers

sale price/lb.	Tons of forage produced							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24¢	\$48	\$ 96	\$144	\$192	\$240	\$288	\$336	\$384
25¢	50	100	150	200	250	301	351	401
26¢	52	104	156	208	260	313	365	417
27¢	54	108	162	216	270	325	379	433
28¢	56	112	168	224	280	337	393	449
29¢	58	116	174	232	290	349	407	465

For calves

sale price/lb.	Tons of forage produced							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26¢	\$30	\$ 61	\$ 92	\$122	\$153	\$184	\$215	\$245
27¢	32	63	95	127	159	191	223	255
28¢	33	66	99	132	165	198	231	264
29¢	34	68	102	137	171	205	239	273
30¢	35	71	106	141	177	212	248	283
31¢	36	73	109	146	183	219	256	292
32¢	37	75	113	151	188	226	264	302

PLACER-NEVADA LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

According to the latest report from the California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, the livestock numbers in this area have remained fairly constant over the past 2 years.

	Cattle		Sheep		Hogs	
	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970
Nevada	8,900	8,000	4,400	3,900	100	100
Placer	29,900	30,800	6,000	6,700	1,300	1,100
Total	38,800	38,800	10,400	10,600	1,400	1,200

PELLET INOCULATE ANNUAL LEGUMES

The successful establishment of annual legumes depends on effective nodulation. This can be accomplished by inoculating the seed with a specific strain of root-nodule bacteria.

Research conducted by University of California Experiment Station and Agricultural Extension personnel in recent years--has shown that poor inoculation usually results in failure or partial failure of the legume stand. It is estimated that from this cause alone, California growers waste many thousands of dollars worth of range-legume seed every year. In addition, labor and fertilizer are not effectively utilized.

Methods of inoculating seed and measures that help to avoid inoculation failure are available in two recent University of California publications:

"Range-Legume Inoculation and Nitrogen Fixation by Root-Nodule Bacteria"

"Pellet Inoculation of Legume Seed"

Copies of these publications are available at our office located at 358 Elm Avenue, Auburn, California 95603.

COMING EVENTS

- August 13 - 14 - California Wool Growers Association Convention - Fresno
- August 27 - 30 - Nevada County District Fair - Grass Valley
- September 12 - Tahoe Cattlemen's Association Field Day - Bickford Livestock Ranch - Lincoln
- September 12 - CBCIA Field Day and Bull Sale - McArthur
- September 18-20 - Auburn District Fair - Auburn

William E. Mason
 William E. Mason
 Farm Advisor

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
\$245	\$215	\$185	\$155	\$125	\$95	\$65	\$35
225	205	185	165	145	125	105	85
205	185	165	145	125	105	85	65
185	165	145	125	105	85	65	45
165	145	125	105	85	65	45	25
145	125	105	85	65	45	25	5
125	105	85	65	45	25	5	