AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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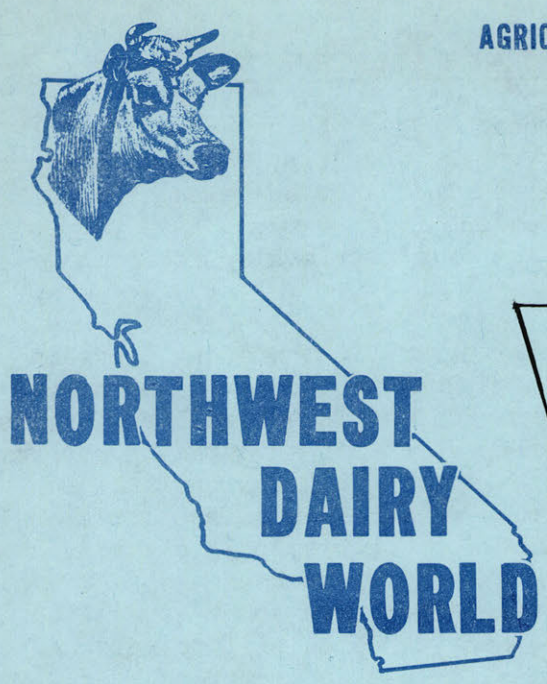

COW TESTING RESULTS
PASTURES USE WATER
REPLACEMENT HEIFER PROJECT
BEEF RESEARCH & ADVERTISING

COW TESTING RESULTS

1976 was a banner year for milk production. Both the Arcata and Ferndale Associations took significant increase in herd production. The following data should be of interest.

DHIA	No. Cows	Average Milk Lbs.	Average B.F. Lbs.
Arcata	1,231	13,378	592
Ferndale	3,881	12,263	541
*California Official Herds	347,709	16,336	603

* TOP 5 COUNTIES

DHIA	No. Cows	Average Milk Lbs.	Average B.F. Lbs.
Kern	16,661	17,816	662
S. Counties	44,293	17,720	636
Tulare	48,664	16,440	625
Kings	15,510	17,231	624
San Diego	5,338	17,953	614

* STATE BREED AVERAGES

BREED	No. Cows	Average Milk Lbs.	Average B.F. Lbs.
Ayshire	213	13,816	539
B. Swiss	651	13,360	545
Guernsey	5,224	12,321	546
Holstein	322,466	16,706	609
Jersey	16,374	11,121	533

* CONTAINS INFORMATION FROM SOME HERDS MILKED 3X

If your herd isn't producing near these breed or our county average then perhaps you had better start testing yourself to help things along.

The Ferndale CTA awards banquet was quite successful. Due to the lack of participation in the circle awards competition, those awards were dropped last year. Three new awards were offered in the official testing program. The Bank of Loleta sponsored a trophy for the highest living lifetime B.F. producer. The winner was Don Coppini with "Berna" who had 14,651 lbs. at 18 years of age. Redwood P.C.A. sponsored a trophy for the most improved herd based on B.F. It was won by Joe Genzoli with a 108 lb. herd increase. Bank of America's new trophy for 5 highest heifers in one herd was won by Phil Nyberg with a 667 lb. B.F. average.

The University of California's Agricultural Extension programs are available to all without regard to race, color or national origin.

Co-operative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of California, and Humboldt County Co-operating

PASTURES USE WATER

The drought situation is certainly more serious in other parts of the state. But if you talk to P.G.&E. you'll find out their concern over supplying you power to pump irrigation water is genuine. Sit down now and make some plans. Here is some miscellaneous data to help you make your decisions.

1. The heaviest use of power occurs in the daytime, particularly late afternoon.
2. Sprinkler irrigation is most efficient in still air.
3. Clay soils hold more water for plant use than sandy soils.
4. Irrigation systems designed to deliver specified rates per hour a few years ago may exceed those rates due to wear of the orifice in the sprinkler head.
5. Pump efficiencies can be checked (and they want to do this) by PG&E.
6. By evaporation from the soil and use by plants, pastures will use 3½ inches of water in each month of June, July and August and 3 inches in September.
7. With the low flow of Eel and Mad Rivers, nearby wells may experience salt intrusion.
8. Grazing livestock and farm equipment traffic compacts wet pastures restricting water penetration.
9. Weeds use more water than grasses.
10. A milking cow will drink 15 gallons or more of water every day.

REPLACEMENT HEIFER PROJECT

The deadline to own replacement heifer projects for sale in 1977 or 1978 is long past. But out there somewhere are youth with heifers purchased several months ago who have not sent in their project agreement. The heifer sale committee must have these forms in soon or there won't be a 1978 sale. Only three forms are returned at this time. This year's sale will feature 13 head at the County Fair in late July.

BEEF RESEARCH & ADVERTISING

It has become very obvious how the Milk Advisory Board and Dairy Council programs have helped the dairy business. Small contributions from everyone have lumped into a lot of money working for each of you.

The beef industry is proposing programs similar to those in the dairy industry. As an owner of cattle you will be involved. The beef research and advertising program as written in the Congressional Act authorizing it includes dairy cattle as well as beef. The reason is clear as most dairy cattle end up as beef also. The program hopes to generate about 40 million dollars, some of which will be returned to the states for use in promoting beef. The money will come from assessments of three-tenths of one percent (.003) on the value of cattle and calves as they are sold or slaughtered. A $200 cull cow from your herd would generate a .60 cent assessment. That assessment would be deducted and you would receive $199.40. Everytime the cow is sold a similar assessment is made. The slaughterer has the carcass and makes money from it so he has to send in the cash. You won't pay anything out of hand as it will be deducted. If you don't want to help sell meat you may apply for a refund of the deductions taken from you. Breeding animals are exempt until the final sale to slaughter.

You are eligible to vote yes or no for this program between July 7 to 15, if you owned cattle last year. 4-H and FFA members owning cattle may also vote. To make yourself eligible to vote you must register. Registration takes place from June 6 to 17 in the A.S.C. office in the Ag Center. You cannot vote if you don't register. Don Buchanan is the ASC office manager.

The local committee with all the information about this program includes Carl Renner, Jim Hunt and Lee Laursen. Contact them, Don Buchanan or our office for more information.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Lawrence
Farm Advisor

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