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State College of Washington

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION NEWS SERVICE

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GOOD OUTLOOK FOR  
FEEDER CATTLE IN  
WASHINGTON STATE

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Washington cattlemen who intend to fatten stock in feed lots can look ahead to a moderately favorable year with less uncertainties than usual as this state has abundant feed grains and the spread between feeder and fat cattle is wider than last season, says R.M. Turner, extension economist of the State College of Washington.

Fewer cattle are being fed in the corn belt, and the strong demand for beef is expected to continue.

Washington stockmen also have another advantage as feed grain prices are lower here than in the corn belt where most feeding takes place. This state has a surplus of grain feeds which can be used to great advantage feeding cattle.

Because of large military requirements and heavy domestic demand, only moderate seasonal price declines are expected, Turner said. Prices for dressed beef are expected to be held near ceiling levels. This means that farmers can figure out more closely what they can afford to pay for feeders. Prices for lower grades of feeder cattle have dropped during the past month.

Cattlemen who intend to feed stock this winter should consider the following:

1. The price between feeder and fed cattle probably will not be large.
2. The price ceiling on dressed beef and strong demand tends to remove uncertainties.
3. Washington has large supplies of feed grain.
4. More pounds of beef are needed, particularly for next spring.
5. Feed grains are cheaper than in the mid-west.
6. Strong consumer, lend-lease and military demand is expected to continue.

STUBBLE-MULCH CAN  
BE CARRIED ON WITH  
PRESENT MACHINES

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Farmers were reminded by soil conservationists they can practice soil and moisture-saving tillage without worrying too much about machinery rationing, and thereby contribute that much more to continued production of war crops.

This fall, as in other years, state extension and soil conservation service spokesmen say pea, grain and other farmers are demonstrating they can do a good job of stubble-mulch, or trashy, type tillage with their present equipment, even though the stubble generally is nearly as heavy as last year's record rank straw growth, especially in the winter wheat areas.

Where straw was scattered, for example, there has been no trouble in breaking it down with a one-way, tandem or other disk so it will rot down partially this winter and be handled easily next spring.

With the most commonly used mold-board plow, for either fall or spring plowing, many farmers have had good success by taking off the mold-boards so as to work the ground without burning the straw. Some have put on inexpensive duckfoot-like sweeps in place of the mold-boards. By holding down the speed, one-way disk users similarly leave a good part of the stubble on the surface for winter protection against erosion and work the soil enough for moisture to go in and to rod-weed next summer's fallow satisfactorily.

In plowing pea land for spring grain, the ground is left rough and open over winter; and past years' experience has proved that erosion is cut down proportionately, with no trouble found in working up a seed bed in the spring, and with valuable carbon and nitrogen from the peas stored in the soil. They also emphasized to growers that the stubble can be saved by such tillage, and a good seed bed and pea crop result.

PROPER CARE GIVES  
CALVES GOOD START

The continued production of more milk depends on raising enough calves for replacement, and by giving a calf special attention during the first few days of its life will get it off to a strong start, says Otto J. Hill, Extension dairyman at the State College of Washington. Many calf losses are due to improper care during its early life.

Raising healthy calves is important for herd improvement, because of the need for replacements when cows in the milking line drop out of production.

The calf should be allowed to remain with its mother for the first 12 to 24 hours. During this time it will generally get all the first milk of the mother that it needs. This milk contains certain properties that protect the calf against diseases and acts as a laxative to clean the digestive tract. At the end of 12 to 24 hours the calf should be removed to a special pen and not fed for 24 hours.

The calf will then be hungry and can readily be taught to drink from a pail. At first feeding, a pint of milk may be enough, but only clean sterilized pails should be used for feeding calves. Digestive disorders are due to improper care of feeding buckets.

Complete information concerning raising dairy calves can be secured in Extension Bulletin No. 269, "Raising Dairy Calves."

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HUNTERS CAUTIONED  
TO PREVENT FIRES

Hunters should follow the good example set by fishermen this year in their care with fire in the woods, believes Donald J. Haibach, extension forester at the State College of Washington.

"The fishing public gave fine cooperation, and as a result there were comparatively few fires caused by sportsmen during the summer," the forester said.

"Extreme caution should be taken where campfires are permitted, and carelessness with smoking materials is not being tolerated these days. If an area is closed to entry, take it in good spirit because officials have a good reason for doing this.

"If each sportsman does his part, man-caused fires will be held to a minimum."

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\*FACTS FOR FARMERS\*  
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Hens need at least a 13-hour working day for top egg production, so poultrymen not prepared to blackout their houses, if blackouts are ordered, are taking chances on reducing egg production when eggs are needed most, says Fred Frasier, extension poultryman. Poultry Pointers 36, "Blacking Out Poultry Houses", tells how to prepare your poultry houses for blackouts. Get it from your county agent.

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Many farmers are engaging in "trench warfare" to defeat the Axis. They are building trench silos to store the feed for greater production of dairy products, beef and mutton. Trench silos not only provide storage for feed, but are inexpensive and do not call for critical materials. County Extension agents have information on how to prepare these trenches.

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When frost kills tomato vines, tomatoes still green need not be wasted. The green tomatoes may be picked and laid out in a dark place to ripen or the vines may be pulled and hung in a storeroom where they won't freeze. Agricultural Extension Service nutritionists say health values are nearly the same as for ripe fruits.

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Sale and delivery of cattle tail hair has been restricted by the WPB to the armed services. The Navy alone needs more cattle hair for bunk mattresses than the domestic supply, since these mattresses are ideal for use under damp conditions because they do not mildew or remain damp. In the past more than half this country's supply has come from Argentina and Brazil, but because of the shipping situation future imports are uncertain.

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\*HOMEMAKERS BRIEFS\*  
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State College of Washington

Crackers and cookies will soften if they are kept in the same place with bread or cake. If they are to be crisp, they should be kept in clean, air-tight tin boxes, or jars.

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When custards, while cooking, get too hot they curdle. For this reason they need the protection of a double boiler, and are best when the water in the bottom of the double boiler is kept below the boiling point.

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Food canned in glass keeps best in a cool, dark place, for the darkness helps hold the color and vitamins. Tinned goods must be kept dry to prevent cans from rusting, as rust may eat through the metal and cause food inside to spoil.

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Winter rye is a winter cover crop for victory gardens. It will be up before the snow falls, and will resume growth almost before the snow is off the ground in the spring. It can be plowed under a few weeks before time to plant the garden.

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Fruit trees should be set out when they are dormant. This would mean after they have stopped growing in the fall or before the sap starts rising in the spring. Late fall is all right for planting if the climate is not too cold.

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