

From the DIRECTOR



A. G. HAZEN

Livestock and livestock products return about one-third of the annual cash income from crops, livestock, and government payments for North Dakota producers.

We sometimes tend to statistically isolate a commodity or group of commodities as if they were unrelated to or independent of other commodities. Thus, if we consider only the cash income statistic we might conclude that livestock and livestock products are entirely separate from crops. Under some circumstances, such as a large feedlot enterprise where the livestock and feed are purchased separately, labor is employed, and the sales are entirely from livestock, cash sales might be considered independent of crop production.

However, for most cash income from livestock production and livestock products in North Dakota, there is an interdependence between livestock and crops. There is also an interdependence between personnel and facilities utilized for research with livestock and with crops in the Agricultural Experiment Station.

An example of this interdependence and integration of effort is the recently completed livestock facility at the Carrington Irrigation Branch Station. This facility consists of four research barns designed to handle separate lots of beef cattle, a fifth barn to handle extra and/or sick cattle, two upright silos, a utility building for machine and feed storage, and a residence to house a livestock specialist. The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District provided funds to build this livestock facility. Operational funds will be a part of the regular operating budget of the Carrington Irrigation Branch Station.

This additional livestock research facility is not intended to be used for research with livestock production, livestock diseases, or other similar research. Rather, the primary purpose of the livestock facility is to provide a research tool which will assist in developing information about the conversion of feed and forage crops, grown under North Dakota irrigated conditions, into livestock for sale as cash income. This is an example of inte-

(Continued on back cover)

In This Issue

Digestibility and Chemical Composition of Brome and Alfalfa Throughout the Growing Season	3
Seasonal Variation in Swine Semen Quality	8
Environmental Nitrogen for Plant Growth	12
Treating Colored Water in Western North Dakota	16
Hard Red Spring and Durum Wheat in Rations for Growing-Finishing Beef Cattle	24
Utilization of Soil Moisture by Corn and Sugarbeets	29
Progress Report on Hybrid Corn Grain Yields at Oakes	33
Effect of Worming on Rate of Gain in the Feedlot	39

On The Cover: Someday soon these new feedlots at the Livestock Unit on the Carrington Irrigation Branch Station will be full of beef cattle. They will be used to test and demonstrate different management schemes for handling livestock and forage production on an irrigated farm in North Dakota.

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Arlon G. Hazen

*Dean of Agriculture, and Director
of Agricultural Experiment Station*

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

H. Roald Lund

EDITORS

Robert A. Jarnagin

J. J. Feight

Gary Moran

Dorothea McCullough

Farm Research

Agricultural Experiment Station
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
of Agriculture and Applied Science
University Station
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Publication

Allen L. Hayes

DIRECTOR

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feed efficiency was improved. The trials conducted at Dickinson were designed primarily to measure rate of gain.

There was no statistically significant difference in rate of gain in these trials between treated and untreated feedlot heifers. An outbreak of coccidiosis, which was not considered due to treatment, may have slowed gains in the wormed lot in 1969.

Reference

1. Flack, D. E., Frank, B. N., Easterbrooks, H. L. and Brown, G. E., *Thiabendazole Treatment, Effect Upon Weight Gains, Feed Efficiency and Cost of Gain in Commercial Feedlot Cattle*. VM-SAC June, 1967.

From the Director

(Continued from page 2)

gration of crops and livestock information that can be translated into cash income to the producer.

Consequently, the trials conducted at this new facility will be developed by cooperative effort between the superintendent of the Carrington Irrigation Branch Station, and the Departments of Animal Science and Agronomy at the Main Station at North Dakota State University. Other departments such as Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering, Cereal Chemistry and Technology, Plant Pathology and Soils also will be involved in the trials and evaluation of data from these trials.